

SR 520 Program

Montlake Project Signage Meeting #2

Facilitator: *Angie Thomson*
Thomson Strategic

SR 520 Program: *Dave Becher*
Director of Construction

David Goldberg
Ombudsman

Neighbor representatives: *Erin Baebler and Rachel Ben-Shmuel*
Montlake residents


January 31, 2024

Zoom participants

All attendees are initially muted. To adjust your audio, click **Audio Settings**.

If you prefer not to speak, please type your questions into the **Q&A** box and we will read them out loud.

If you are experiencing technical issues, click **Chat** to type a message to "Tech Support."

To ask a question, click **Raise Hand** 
You can unmute yourself once the host calls your name.



If your video is on, it is currently being displayed on a TV monitor in the room.

Auto-captioning is enabled.
Click **Captions** to change settings. You may need to click **More** to find it.

Group guidelines

- Listen actively and contribute constructively
- Challenge ideas, not the person
- Take space and make space; allow opportunities for everyone to speak
- Respect the role of the facilitator to manage the conversation

Agenda

- **PART 1:** History and engagement process
- **PART 2:** Overview of the workgroup process
- **PART 3:** Workgroup recommendations*
 - Sign Location #1
 - Sign Location #2
 - Sign Location #3
- **PART 4:** Next steps and implementation
- **PART 5:** Q&A
- **PART 6:** Open house stations

**The workgroup's signage recommendations are based on the standards outlined in the [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD), the technical limitations of the area and the workgroup's goals and priorities.*

Community process overview

Date	Activity	Purpose
Oct. 17-26, 2023	Community survey	Gather community feedback about Montlake sign bridges
Oct. 26, 2023	Community meeting #1	Set context, understand feedback and gather community input and ideas
Nov. 2023 – Jan. 2024	Workgroup meetings and technical analysis	Analyze feasibility of signage adjustments and make recommendations
Jan. 31, 2024	Community meeting #2	Share workgroup’s recommendations and solicit community feedback
Feb. – April 2024	Implementation analysis*	Analyze signage adjustments and implementation plan <i>*Dependent on funding</i>
Spring 2024	Summary report	Share summary of process, feedback and implementation

Workgroup participants

Facilitator: Angie Thomson – Thomson Strategic

Neighbor representatives

- Bruce Balick, Montlake
- Erin Baebler, Montlake
- Gayle Seely, Montlake
- Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Montlake
- Steve Beaudry, Montlake
- Michael VonKorff, Arboretum
- Peter Haley, Eastlake

WSDOT – SR 520 Program

- Cassandra Manetas – Cultural Resources Lead
- Chelsey Funis – Communications
- Dave Becher – Director of Construction
- David Goldberg – Community Liaison and Ombudsman
- Suryata Halim – Disciplines Manager
- Todd Harrison – Director of Project Development
- Tony Black – Communications

WSDOT – Northwest Region

- Christina Strand – Area Traffic Engineer, King County

WSDOT – Headquarters Traffic

- Trevor McCain – Transportation Signing Specialist

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

- Amanda Tse – Interagency Project Manager
- Ganth Lingam – Interagency Program Manager
- Tom Le – Supervisor, Design and Layout, Transportation Operations Division

Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development

- Lyle Bicknell – Principal Urban Designer

Seattle Design Commission

- Valerie Kinast – Strategic Advisor

WA Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

- Maureen Elenga – Architectural Historian

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

- Anne Knight – Advisory Board Member
- Kyle Capizzi – Board Member

University of Washington

- Aaron Hoard – Interim Director, Office of Regional & Community Relations

The U District Partnership

- Katy Ricchiuto

Workgroup meetings

Date	Activity	Purpose
Nov. 29, 2023	Meeting #1	Discuss workgroup goals and expectations
Dec. 13, 2023	Meeting #2	Review technical analysis for sign location #1 ; make recommendations
Jan. 10, 2024	Meeting #3	Review technical analysis for sign locations #2 and #3 ; make recommendations
Jan. 24, 2024	Meeting #4	Finalize recommendations & prepare for community meeting

Goals and priorities

Community

- Make signage and sign structures visually compatible w/ historic neighborhood and boulevards.
- Reduce the overall size of signs and structures.
- Ensure safety and sufficient mobility for all users – walkers, bicyclists, drivers and residents.

WSDOT

- Ensure the signage design maintains safe and efficient movement for all users.
- Find a feasible signage design that WSDOT, the neighbors and our partner agencies can agree on.
- Ensure the signage design meets current design standards required by law.

Workgroup decision-making process

Montlake Project signage ideas

Feedback received via email, the community survey and/or the community meeting on 10/26/2023
Ideas reorganized into groups by the workgroup on 11/29/2023

Sign Bridge #1: Grouping/categorizing of ideas and technical team analysis

Group 1 – Keep the existing sign bridge with/without some type of modification:

- 1— Keeping the existing signs and sign bridge
- 2— Move sign bridge to a different location
- 4— Smaller signs with existing sign bridge
- 11— Replace with smaller/shorter sign bridge

Group 2 – Different signing strategies and ways to support the signs:

- ★ 3. Add additional signing further south on 24th Avenue E
- 5. Smaller signs w/ cantilever arm
- ★ 6. Smaller signs mounted on signal mast arm
- ★ 7. Smaller side-mounted signs
- 8. Smaller signs mounted on span wires
- 9. Paint highway shields & directional arrows on the pavement
- 10. Re-install the same signage that was there previously
- 27. Add wayfinding signs on Montlake Blvd for UW/UWMC/Husky Stadium

Legend:

~~Crossed-out text~~ = Not considered or analyzed by technical team; does not meet workgroup goals & priorities

● = Evaluated by the technical team

★ = Recommended by the technical team for implementation because it meets WSDOT & community's goals and priorities

Group 3 – Treatment/camouflage/softening the sign bridge:

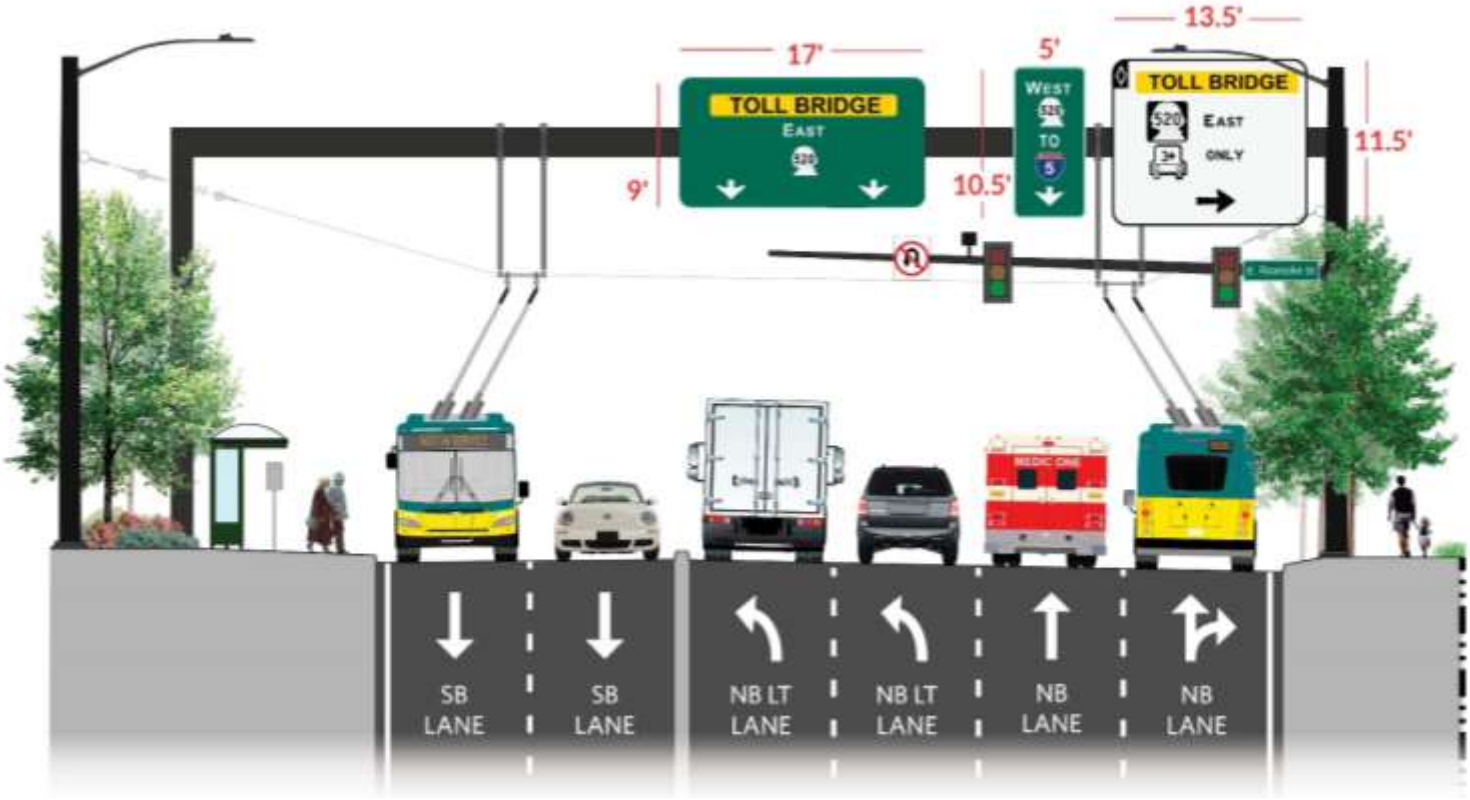
11. Replace w/ Montlake Bridge style sign bridge/gantry replica (or other more historic-looking structure)
13. Apply facing plates like on the bottom trusses of the Montlake Bridge
14. Apply metal faux lattice (replicating Montlake Bridge gables) on existing sign bridge—historic style
15. Same as no. 14 but contemporary style
16. Paint sign bridge green to match Montlake Bridge
17. Paint sign bridge green and w/ a decorative/lattice-type pattern to resemble Montlake Bridge
18. Paint sign bridge gray/silver/blue/brown/other color
19. Add climbing wisteria or other organic elements to the sign bridge
20. Add adjacent trees/shrubs to block/hide the sign structure
21. Use public art funding and/or ask for artist submissions
22. Add artificial camouflage on the vertical supports
23. Add decorative UW-themed elements to the sign bridge (e.g. flags)
24. Add elements to the sign bridge in recognition of indigenous people who used this land (e.g. tribal canoe)
25. Add elements to the sign bridge in recognition of sports or Portage Bay theme (e.g. secure an old crew shell at the top)
26. Add encased glass art to the sign bridge (similar to the bridge at the Tacoma Art Museum)

Sign Location #1

Located on Montlake Boulevard between E Roanoke Street and E North Street



Original sign dimensions at Sign Location #1



Sign Location #1 recommendations

Workgroup recommendations:

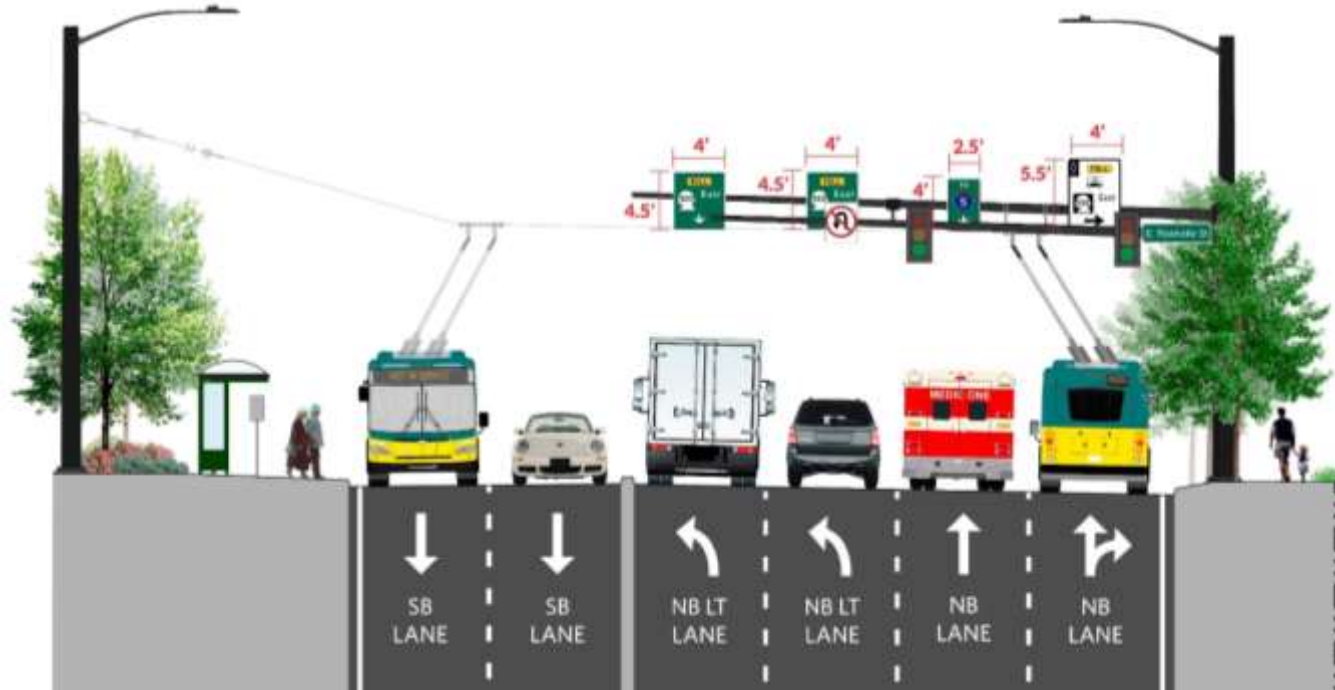
Replace existing sign bridge with a new, black-painted mast arm.

Install smaller signs supported by the new mast arm.

The mast arm should be installed as far north as technically feasible (approx. 10 ft from the current sign bridge location).

Understanding/agreement that the existing sign bridge be removed as soon as possible.

Add advance signs at 24th Ave. E supported by a new mast arm (see next slide for details).

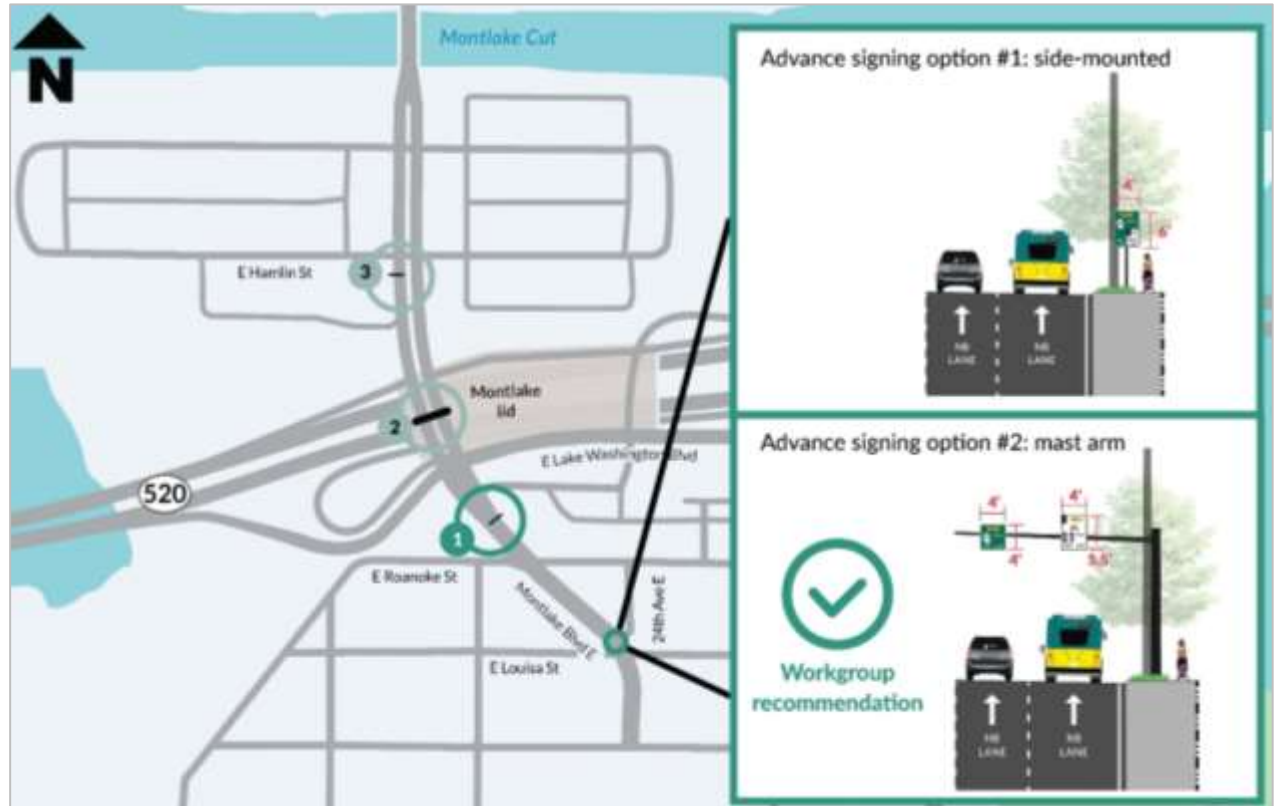


Advance signing at 24th Avenue E

Workgroup recommendations:

To allow for reduced sign sizes at Sign Location #1, add advance signs at 24th Avenue E.

Advance signs supported by a new, black-painted mast arm (vs. side-mounted signs).



Alternatives considered but not selected

Alternatives that did not meet goals, priorities and safety constraints



Cantilever arm

- Heavier structure
- Does not span far enough across necessary travel lanes
- Not visually compatible with historic neighborhood



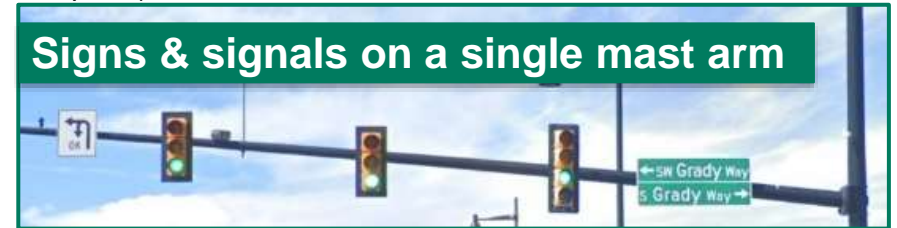
Painted highway shields

- Used for “supplemental signing” only
- Maintenance issues
- Pavement markings cannot be used in place of signs



Span wires

- Signs needed are too big / heavy to be supported by a span wire
- Maintenance and weather issues (e.g., windstorms can knock signs out of place)



Signs & signals on a single mast arm

- Weight and spacing issues with 4 signs & 3 traffic lights needed on a single mast arm
- Sign arrows would not be centered over the lanes (MUTCD requirement)

Pause for questions



Sign Location #2

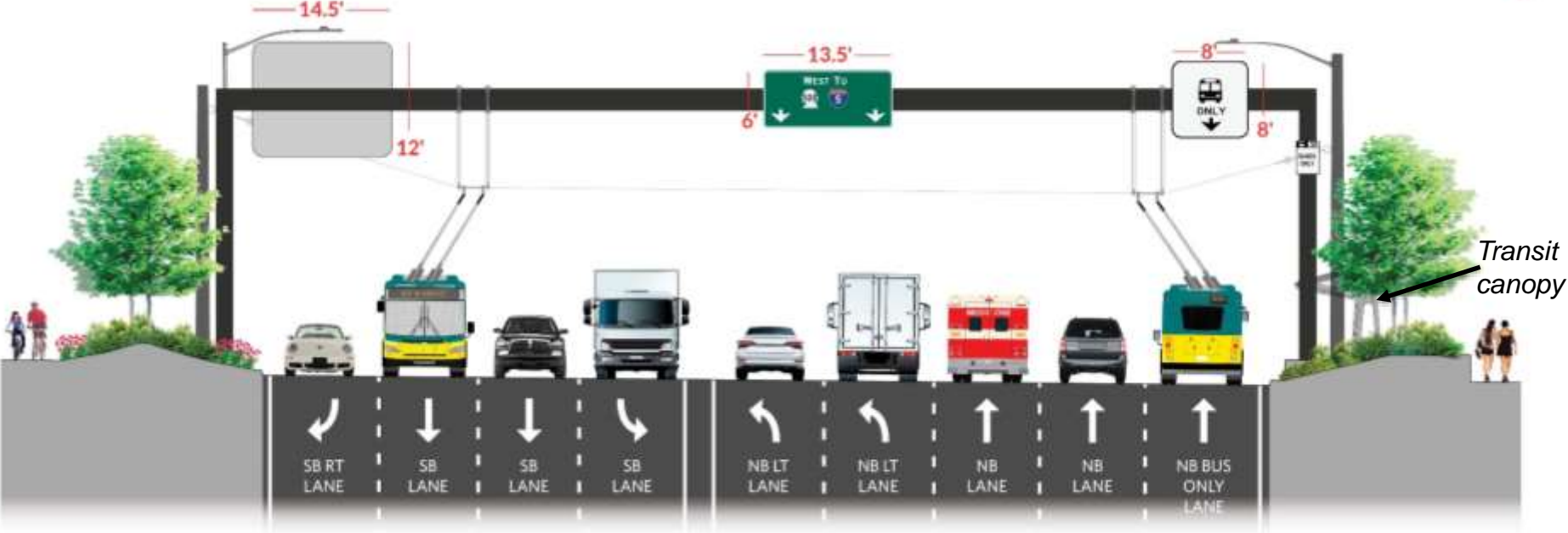
Located on Montlake Boulevard in the middle of the new Montlake lid



Visualization of Montlake Boulevard & transit canopies



Original sign dimensions at Sign Location #2



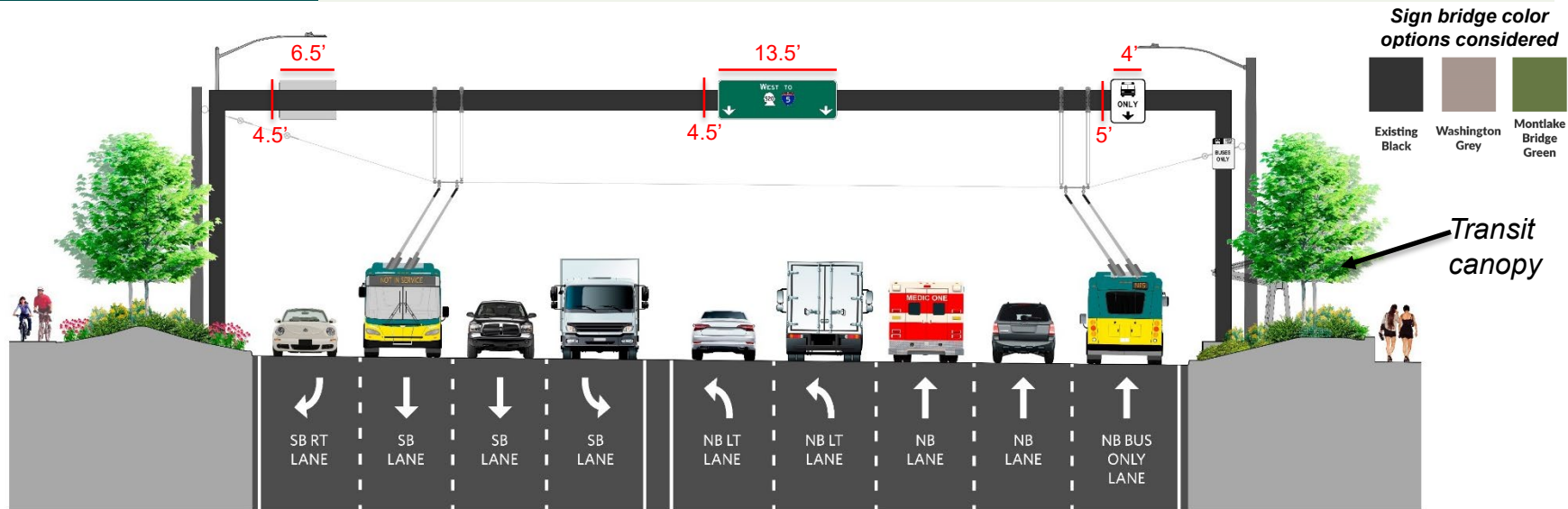
Sign Location #2 recommendations

Workgroup recommendations:

Smaller signs supported by the existing sign bridge.*

**The workgroup heard the technical limitations at this location and the need for the existing sign bridge to remain in place. However, while the group came to consensus about the smaller signs, the group does not specifically endorse leaving the sign bridge in place.*

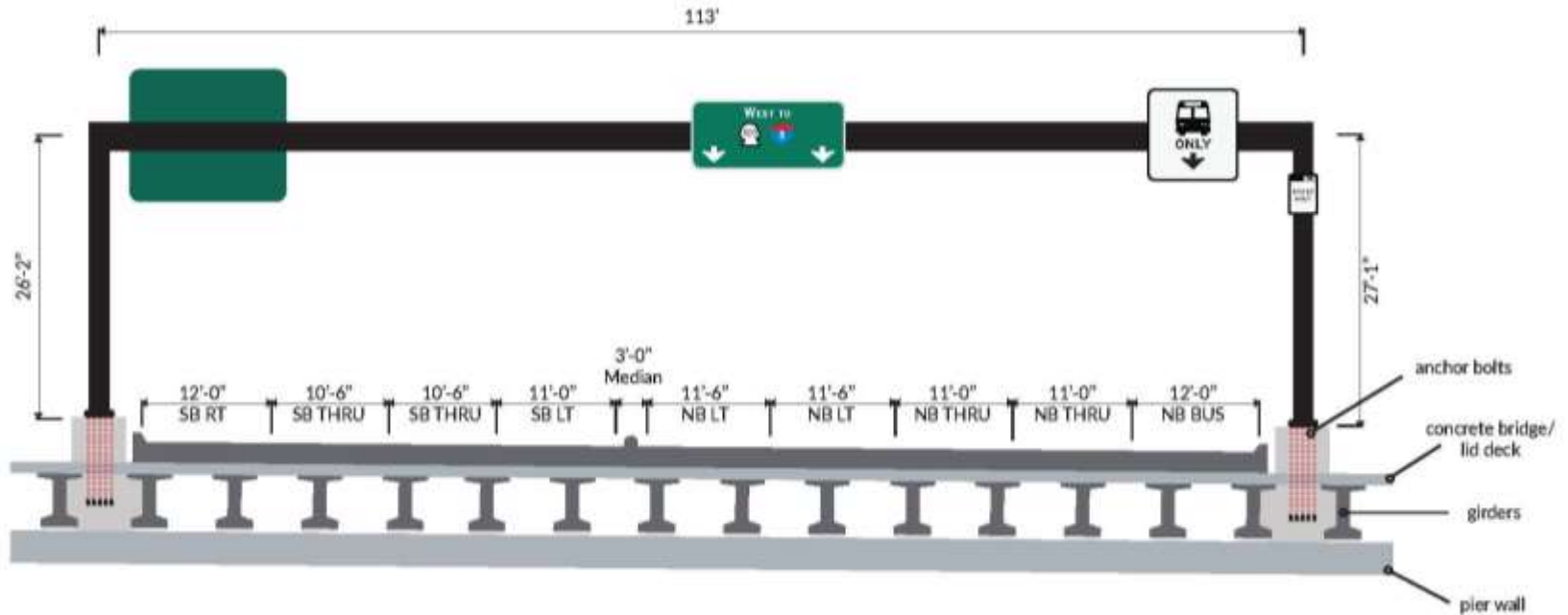
The workgroup discussed an alternative color for the sign bridge but did not reach consensus.



Sign Location #2 – technical limitations

Sign Bridge #2 Cross Section & Foundation Details

Looking North

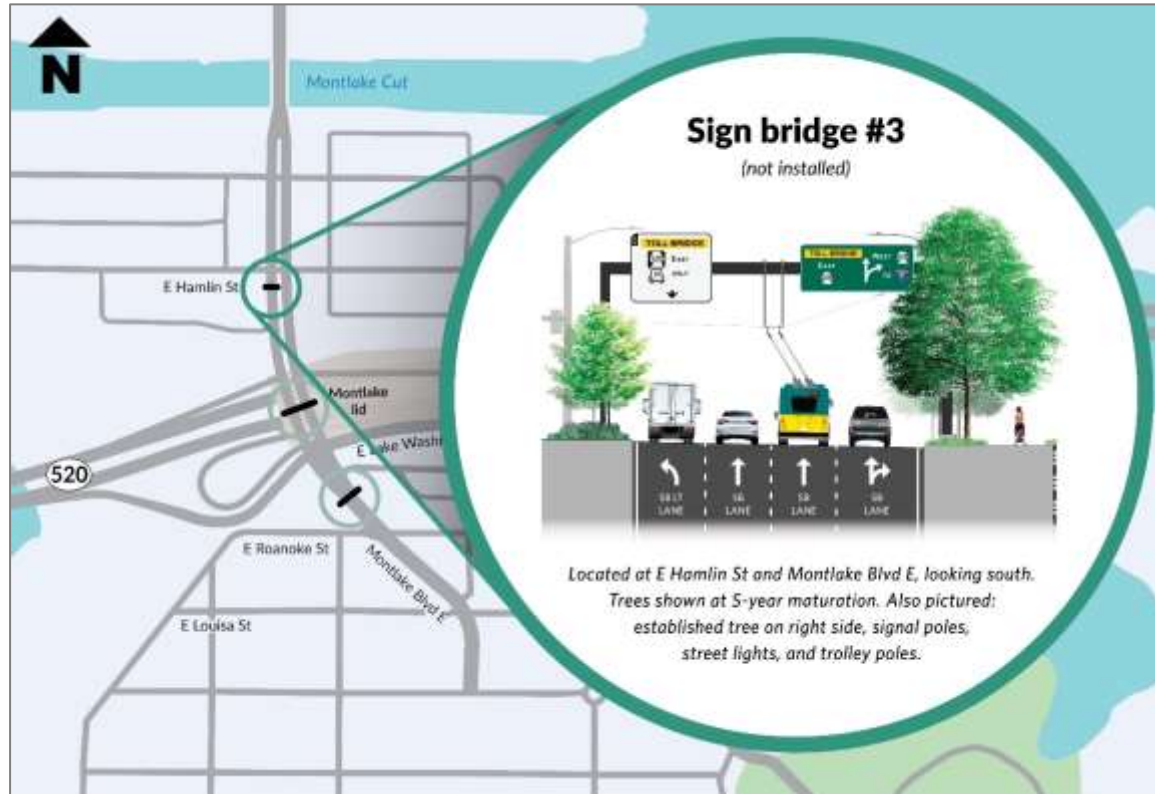


Pause for questions

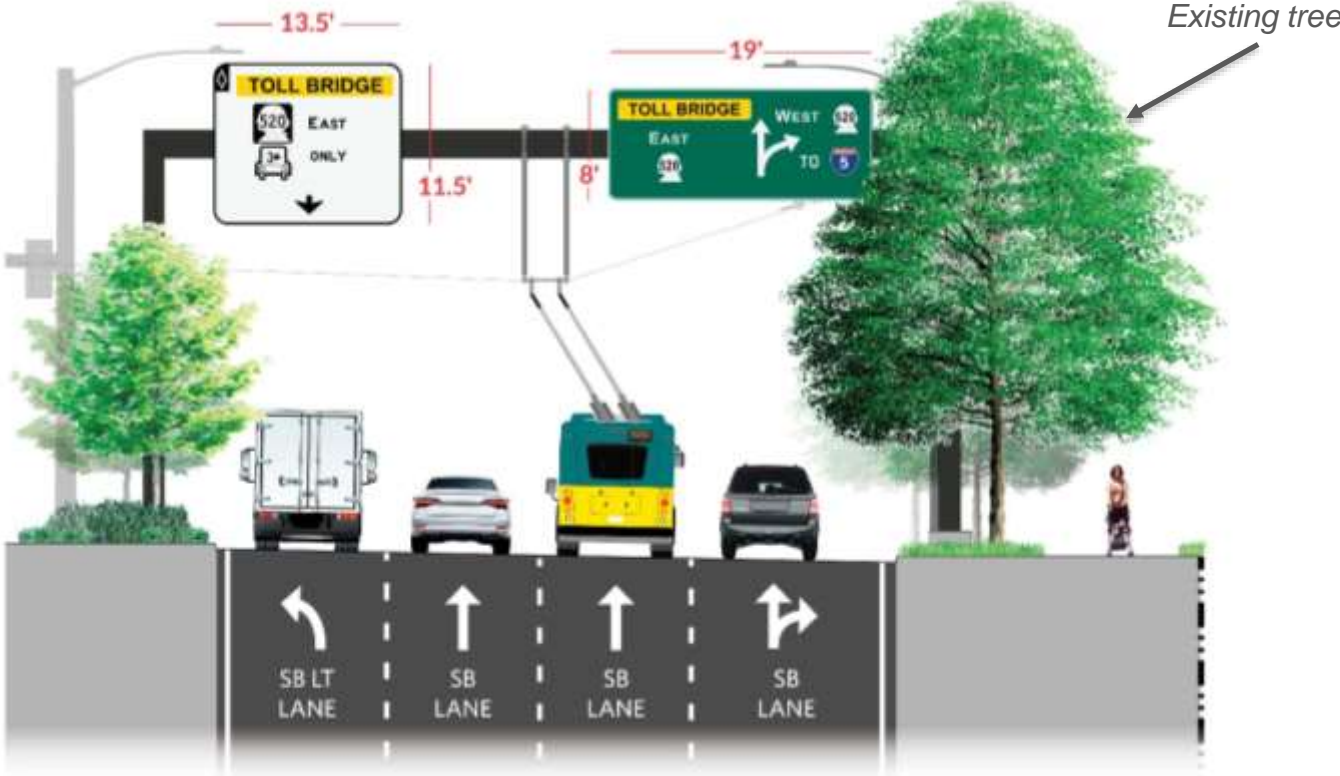


Sign Location #3

Currently uninstalled. Located on Montlake Boulevard south of E Hamlin Street.



Original sign dimensions at Sign Location #3



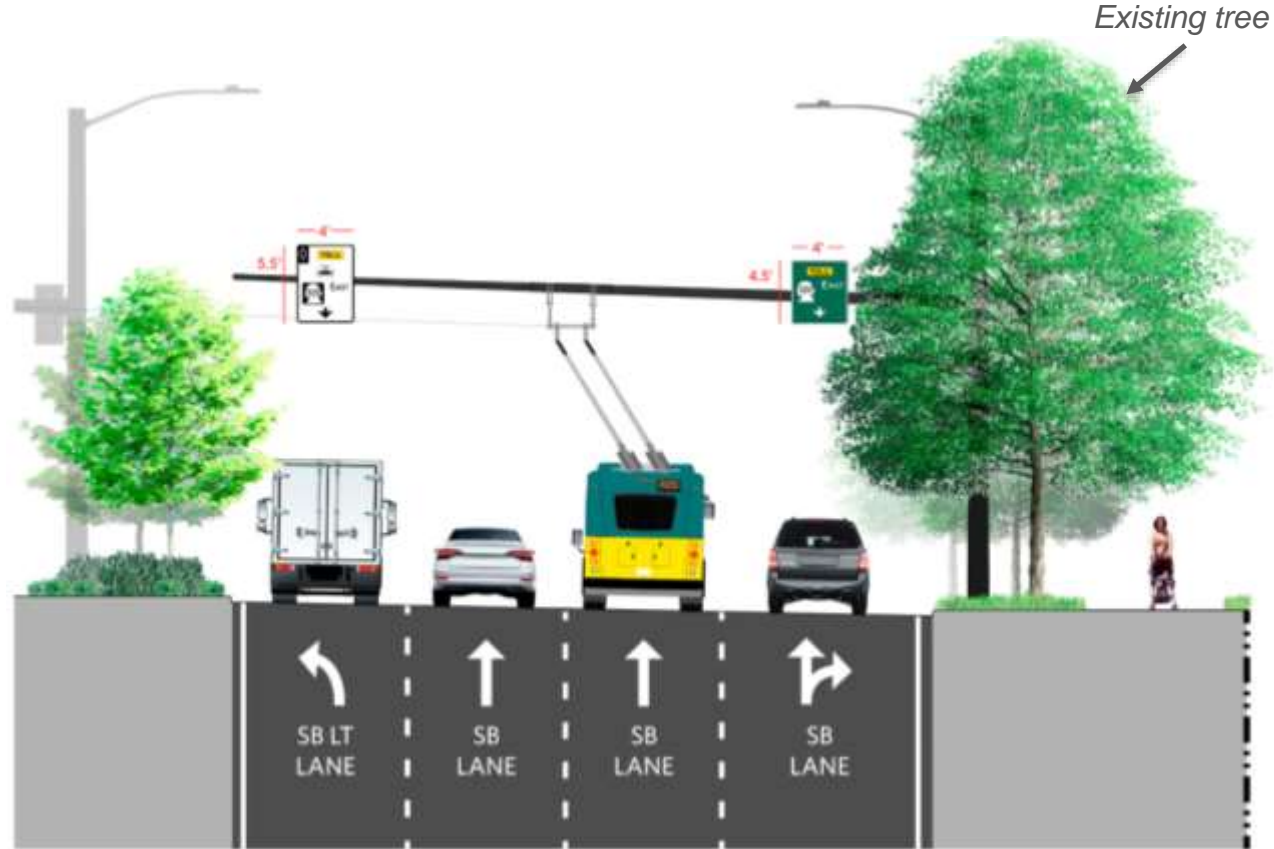
Sign Location #3 recommendation

Workgroup recommendations:

Replace the planned sign bridge with a new, black-painted mast arm.

Install smaller signs supported by the new mast arm.

Add an advance I-5 sign on an existing luminaire pole between E Hamlin Street and E Shelby Street.



Next steps

Date	Activity	Purpose
Feb. 2024	Legislative briefing	Finalize recommendations and submit to Legislature for 2024 state funding
March 7, 2024	End of legislative session	Finalize available funds for sign location recommendations
Spring 2024	Install interim signage on Montlake Boulevard	Install smaller signs on existing sign bridges to safely open new facility
Spring 2024	Community engagement summary	Share summary of options, feedback considered, decision made and implementation plan
Summer/Fall 2024	Design and procuring a contractor	Put a contract together and hire a contractor
2025*	Procure materials and begin construction*	Begin installation of new sign structures <i>*Timing dependent on funding and lead time to procure materials</i>

Q&A



Contact information

SR 520 Program Communications

Email: sr520bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

Phone: 206-200-9484

David Goldberg, Community Liaison & Ombudsman

Email: David.Goldberg@wsdot.wa.gov

Phone: 202-412-7930

Montlake Project construction hotline: 206-775-8885

Helpful links:

- **SR 520 Program webpage:** wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-520-bridge-replacement-and-hov-program
- **SR 520 Construction Corner webpage:** sr520construction.com
- **Sign up for email updates:** public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_376

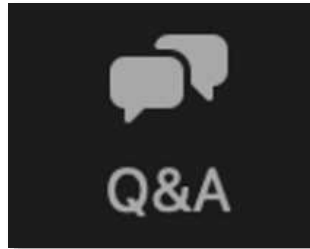


Scan to visit program page:
bit.ly/SR520MontlakeProject

Transition to open house portion of the meeting

*For those of you **online**, Todd Harrison, WSDOT's Director of Project Development, will be available to answer virtual questions until 7:30 p.m.*

*Click **Q&A** in the toolbar to submit your questions.*



Transition to open house portion of the meeting

*For those of you **in person**, please visit the stations to review the sign alternatives, ask questions and talk with members of the project team and workgroup.*

Sign Location #1

Sign Location #2

Sign Location #3

Interim signage
& construction

SDOT
representatives