



# SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program



I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

## SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project Monthly Public Meeting #7 – Summary

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Graham Visitors Center

2300 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle, WA 98112

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### Attendees

#### Flatiron West, Inc.

- Justin Allington, Project Manager

#### WSDOT

- James VanSteenburg, WABN Construction Engineering Manager
- Kristin Sandstrom, WABN Communications Manager
- Emily Namiki, WABN Communications
- Kathryn Murdock, WABN Communications

#### City of Seattle

- John Arnesen, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Eric O'Brien, Seattle Department of Transportation

### Meeting overview

On May 6, WSDOT and the contractor, Flatiron West, Inc., cohosted a monthly public meeting and invited the local community to learn about upcoming construction activities on the [SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project](#) (WABN). Approximately 15 members of the public attended. The monthly meeting is an informal forum where community members can learn about progress on the WABN project and ask WSDOT staff and the contractor questions about construction activities.

### Key features: James VanSteenburg

- WSDOT is constructing a 1.2 mile bridge which will connect two general purpose lanes and one HOV lane of the new floating bridge into the Montlake area. Other [key design features](#), changes and improvements of the WABN project include:
  - Extending a new 14-foot-wide regional shared-use bicycle/pedestrian path from the new floating bridge to 24th Avenue East in Montlake and existing city of Seattle (City) paths.
  - Removing the westbound SR 520 Arboretum off-ramp and replacing its function with a new off-ramp at 24th Avenue East. Crews will also add a four-way stop with stop signs for vehicles exiting the off-ramp.
  - Constructing an additional westbound lane on East Lake Washington Boulevard between 24th Avenue East and Montlake Boulevard.

- Constructing a new westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard at the location of the removed northbound bus shelter and adding a northbound signal for vehicles exiting the off-ramp.
- Constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, including curb cuts and widening sidewalks from eight to 10 feet on the eastside of Montlake Boulevard.
- Narrowing and lengthening the transit island near the eastbound SR 520 on-ramp from Montlake Boulevard in order to allow crews to widen the eastbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard and add a dedicated right-turn and through lane.

### **Pedestrian Improvements: James VanSteenburg**

- Crews continue work to improve sidewalks along Montlake Boulevard, including widening sidewalks from eight to 10 feet and constructing ADA improvements:
  - Phase one of sidewalk closures between the westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard and East Hamlin Street is nearly complete. Crews need to complete the repair of a utility vault lid at the northeast corner of the East Hamlin Street and Montlake Boulevard intersection. After the lid is repaired, crews can pour the final concrete for that corner of sidewalk.
  - Phase two of sidewalk closures at the southeast corner of East Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake Boulevard intersection was originally anticipated to take two to three weeks. The sidewalk closure was extended to protect existing utilities while the City and Flatiron worked to redesign the sidewalk around utility conflicts. Designs are now finished and the section of sidewalk is scheduled to be complete before the weekend closure of Lake Washington Boulevard starting on May 29.
    - **UPDATE:** This sidewalk reopened on Saturday, June 6, 2015. During the weekend closure of Lake Washington Boulevard, cyclists and pedestrians were directed to cross East Lake Washington Boulevard at 24th Avenue East.
  - Crews do not plan to begin phase three of sidewalk closures until early June. Phase three will include the closure of the transit island near the eastbound SR 520 ramps to and from Montlake Boulevard.

### **Construction Progress: James VanSteenburg**

- East Park Drive East parking stalls will be installed starting Monday, May 11.
  - Twelve total parking stalls will be installed as part of the WABN project. The first eight, including a temporary ADA parking space, will be installed over the next three weeks. The final four parking stalls will be installed in 2017 near the end of the project.
  - Construction activities will occur from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
  - In order to pave and stripe the eight stalls, crews will close East Park Drive East for one day.
- Crews continue work to widen the existing westbound SR 520 mainline in order to create a new temporary westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard.

- Crews have installed all in-water piles and have five remaining on-land piles to install for the widening work near the former Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) staging area.
- After all the piles are installed, crews will pour concrete for the deck in late June.
- Flatiron met key in-water work restriction deadlines to protect salmon migration:
  - East of Foster Island, Flatiron completed all components of the temporary work bridge, including installation of finger piers and casings.
  - West of Foster Island, in Union Bay, there are fewer restrictions during the fish window than in Lake Washington. Crews are permitted to install piles and casings with vibratory hammers.
    - Crews will not be able to install additional piles for finger piers or casings until the westbound SR 520 ramps to Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake Boulevard are demolished. Currently these off-ramps are in the path of the new WABN.
  - After the fish window ends in September, crews will install casings between the east end of the temporary work bridge and the new floating bridge.
- Crews began constructing the permanent bridge structure:
  - Crews began installing casings. After the casings are installed, crews clean the shaft, place rebar cages inside of the casings and fill the casings with concrete. This concrete structure is a shaft and is the foundation of the new bridge.
  - The week of May 11, crews will begin drilling inside of the casings, between 60 to 165 feet into the lake bed.
  - Crews have to continue the drilling process until the concrete is poured. Depending on the size of the casing, this may require nighttime work.
  - Drilling and pouring concrete will be a continuous operation for many months as crews continue to build the foundation of the WABN.

### Upcoming work: James VanSteenburg

- Crews will close Lake Washington Boulevard for two consecutive weekends to replace the combined sewer that goes under SR 520. Lake Washington Boulevard will close from 7 p.m. May 29 to 6 a.m. June 1 and 7 p.m. June 5 to 6 a.m. June 8.
  - **UPDATE:** Second weekend closure of Lake Washington Boulevard has been rescheduled to July.
  - During the closure, Flatiron will maintain access for bicycles and pedestrians. Pedestrians and bicyclists will be detoured across 24th Avenue East and behind the barrier wall on East Lake Washington Boulevard to Montlake Boulevard
    - **UPDATE:** Flatiron maintained the City route across 24th Avenue East during the closure.
  - WSDOT is evaluating Flatiron's schedule for noisy nighttime work. WSDOT may offer hotel accommodations to frontline homes on East Lake Washington Boulevard. The noisiest activity will be excavating 25 feet down to install the combined sewer.

## Upcoming work and closures: Justin Allington

- Upcoming work includes:
  - Continued construction of East Park Drive East parking stalls.
  - Assembling the drill rig so crews can begin drilling casings to create shafts.
  - An eastbound SR 520 closure from 11 p.m. May 18 to 5 a.m. May 19.
  - A full closure of SR 520 from June 26 to June 29 where crews plan to connect the widened SR 520 westbound lanes to the temporary westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard.
  - Intermittent closures of the Arboretum Waterfront Trail in the mid- to late summer for casing installation.

## Next meeting: Kristin Sandstrom

- In previous meetings, we heard interest for public tours of the construction site.
  - We will be offering public tours during our next three monthly meetings, on June 3, July 1 and August 5.
  - These tours will be a chance to ask questions and get updates about the project on-site from our WSDOT engineers and our contractor.
  - Participants must register in advance on our [website](#).

## Key comments and questions

The summary below highlights key comments, questions and responses posed during the discussion. The summary is not verbatim but represents the themes of the comments and responses.

### Visual screening and noise wall

- **Question:** Is the blue noise wall intended to be the only visual screening for the next two years? We need a screen that protects the neighborhood's historic houses.
- **Response (WSDOT):** At this point yes, that is the contractor's visual screen. Flatiron is contractually required to have a visual screen.
- **Response (Flatiron):** Contractually, we're not required to have a noise wall and we have had requests from other neighbors to take down the plywood wall that we installed at the start of the project.
- **Response (WSDOT):** WSDOT can put you in contact with someone at WSDOT to explain our Section 106 commitments.

### East Park Drive East Parking Stalls

- **Question:** Are we losing meadow land for the parking stalls?
- **Response (WSDOT):** These parking stalls are for the park area and kayak launch. Flatiron is required to install this parking to replace parking that was taken away during construction. Eight parking stalls will be installed now and four additional parking stalls will be installed in 2017. The WABN contract required that these stalls be installed before the closure of the 24th Avenue East bridge.
- **Question:** How will you prevent students from the University of Washington (UW) from using these spots?

- **Response (WSDOT):** WSDOT has been working with the City to install signs that state a four-hour time limit on the parking stalls to prevent UW students from using the spaces.
- **Response (City):** These spots will be restricted with the four-hour time limit. It will not be convenient for students to park there.
- **Question:** I used to park in the MOHAI lot and canoe on Lake Washington all day. Can I not use these spaces to do that?
- **Response (City):** This parking replaces the four-hour parking that used to be in place before construction. We are providing the same level of parking service. You may have been able to park at the MOHAI lot for the whole day because it wasn't heavily used or enforced.
- **Question:** What days will the time limited parking be enforced?
- **Response (City):** It will be enforced Monday through Saturday. There may be some overflow from events at Hec Edmundson Pavilion on Sundays but it will restrict parking for Husky Football games.
- **Question:** Could we have a four-hour time limit in our zone (Zone 1 and Zone A) so neighborhood residents can use the kayak launch site?
- **Response (City):** This would limit residents outside Zone 1 or Zone A being able to park in the spaces to launch their kayaks. Zones are not heavily used in this area. There is plenty of zone parking along Shelby and Hamlin Streets if the parking spots are full. It is not our plan to have it be a zone-restricted parking area.

### **Pedestrian and bicycle detours**

- **Question:** I received something in the mail saying phase one of sidewalk replacement on Montlake Boulevard is complete but it looks like construction is still ongoing at that location.
- **Response (WSDOT):** WSDOT considered phase one to be the north-south pedestrian path on Montlake Boulevard because that was the most important part to complete before the closure of 24th Avenue East. Crews still need to put in the new bus pad and the replace the utility lid on the utility vault on the north corner of the East Hamlin Street and Montlake Boulevard intersection.
- **Question:** Why was there a utility conflict in the middle of an ADA ramp on the southeast corner of East Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake Boulevard?
- **Response (WSDOT):** The existing utility vault was missed in the design.
- **Question:** What is the detour for pedestrians and bicyclists during the closure of 24th Avenue East bridge?
- **Response (WSDOT):** When the 24th Avenue East bridge is closed for construction, pedestrians and bicyclists will be detoured to Montlake Boulevard via East North Street. Flatiron is making improvements to sidewalks on Montlake Boulevard for the bicycle and pedestrian detour in preparation for the 24th Avenue East closure. The closure will last approximately 180 days. When we are preparing to close 24th Avenue East, there will be plenty of detour signs to re-route pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

### **East Hamlin Street light pole**

- **Question:** Will the light pole on East Hamlin Street be fixed?
- **Response (WSDOT):** Flatiron is coordinating with Seattle City Light to repair and replace the light pole.

### **Temporary off-ramp**

- **Question:** Can you explain the temporary nature of the westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard?
- **Response (WSDOT):** The current westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard is in the path of the new WABN structure. Crews will divert traffic onto the temporary westbound SR 520 off-ramp in order to demolish the current off-ramp. Traffic will use the temporary off-ramp until the new westbound SR 520 off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard is built from the new WABN structure.

### **Tours**

- **Question:** How many people are allowed on the tours?  
**Response (WSDOT):** Up to 30. If there is high interest, WSDOT may consider offering additional tours.