

CHAPTER 5.1 Cultural Resources

The project will not adversely affect any significant historic or archaeological resources. Several aspects of the project will have beneficial effects on historic properties adjacent to the roadway. These aspects include noise walls incorporated into the project design to reduce road noise, and landscaped lids that will dampen road noise and enhance the setting of historic properties.

Please refer to the Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum in Appendix K for additional information about the cultural resources analysis.

Cultural resources are districts, sites, structures, objects, people, documents, or traditional places that may be important in American history or prehistory. Cultural resources include both historic and archaeological resources.

Cultural resources provide an important link to the past while establishing meaningful connections to lives today. They serve as memories and symbols of a community's accomplishments and represent the distinctive architectural, landscape, and engineering designs of the region. Cultural resources represent aspects of the physical environment that relate to culture, society, and institutions that bond communities together and link them to their environmental and social surroundings.

Why are cultural resources considered in this EA?

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), federal agencies must identify cultural resources and evaluate the historical significance and state of preservation in order to consider how their undertakings affect historic properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Federal agencies must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Native American tribes as part of the Section 106 review process.

Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal. This includes evaluation of any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is the nation's official list of properties and other cultural resources that are recognized as deserving preservation. National Register properties include districts, sites, buildings, and objects that are significant in American history.

What is Section 4(f)?

Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 declares that a special effort must be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside, including public parks and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.

registers. The Department of Transportation Act of 1966 also includes a special provision, commonly referred to as *Section 4(f)*, that requires federal agencies to consider how their proposed actions and policies may affect historic sites. Chapter 5.10, Section 4(f) Resources, discusses this subject in greater detail.

Furthermore, in November 2005, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire signed Executive Order 05-05, which requires state agencies with capital improvement projects to integrate their planning efforts with input from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA), and concerned tribes.

How did WSDOT evaluate cultural resources for this project?

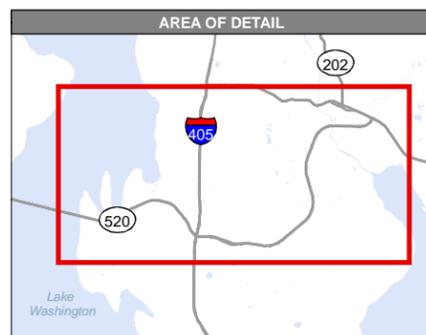
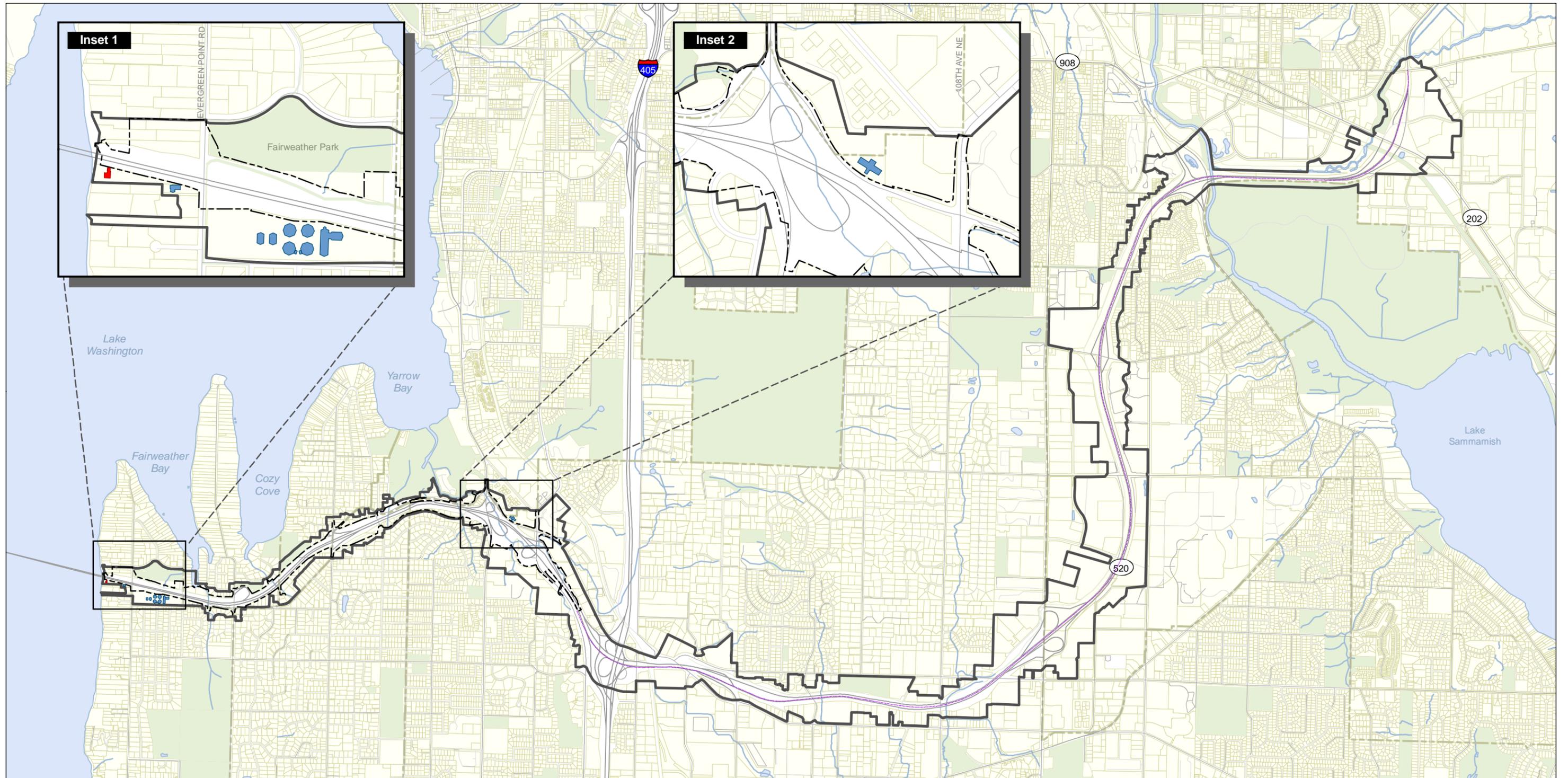
What is the area of potential effects?

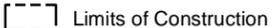
The area of potential effects (APE) is the area in which cultural resources, if they are present, could be directly or indirectly affected by the project.

To evaluate potential project effects on cultural resources, WSDOT established an area of potential effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO and with identified concerned Native American tribes. The APE was generally limited to the footprint of the project for analysis of direct effects and usually a city block beyond the right of way for indirect effects. Exhibit 5-1 shows the APE.

Team historians reviewed historic and cultural resources site files maintained by DAHP and by the Cultural Development Authority (CDA) of King County. They also conducted field investigations in accordance with the NRHP, Washington Historic Register (WHR), King County, and local landmarks evaluation criteria to identify and document prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites, as well as buildings and structures more than 50 years of age within the APE.

Letters of concurrence regarding the APE from DAHP are included in Appendix B, Agency and Tribal Correspondence.



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|  | Area of Potential Effects |  | Restriping |
| Eligibility of Surveyed Structure | |  | Limits of Construction |
|  | Washington Historic Register Eligible |  | Parcel |
|  | National Register of Historic Places Eligible |  | Park |



Source: City of Bellevue (2004) GIS Data (Parcel), City of Redmond (2009) GIS Data (Parcel), City of Kirkland (2008) GIS Data (Parcel) King County (2008) GIS Data (Parcel, Streams, Streets, Water Bodies), CH2M HILL (2008) GIS Data (Parks). Horizontal datum for all layers is NAD83(91), vertical datum for layers is NAVD88.

Exhibit 5-1. Area of Potential Effects Overview Map

Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project

What cultural resources are located in the study area?

Historic Resources

The APE contains no previously identified historic properties. The survey conducted as part of the historic resources effects analysis identified three NRHP-eligible properties and one WHR-eligible property.

NRHP-eligible Properties

James Arntson House, 2851 Evergreen Point Road, Medina

The James Arntson house (Exhibit 5-2), a modern-style residence, was constructed in 1953 and is eligible for the NRHP for its distinctive architectural characteristics, uniquely representative of its mid-century period. It is also eligible for the WHR for its strong architectural qualities.



Exhibit 5-2. James Arntson House, 2851 Evergreen Point Road, Medina

Googie architecture originated in the late 1940s and continued into the 1960s. The style, characterized by upswept roofs, geometric shapes, and the use of neon and steel elements, was influenced by car culture and space and atomic age concepts.

BurgerMaster, 10606 Northup Way, Bellevue

The BurgerMaster restaurant in Bellevue (Exhibit 5-3) was built in 1967. The building is architecturally significant as a rare surviving example of “Googie-style” roadside architecture. It is eligible for the NRHP for its architectural significance and unique defining characteristics.

Bellevue Christian School, 7800 NE 28th Street, Medina

Bellevue Christian School (Exhibit 5-4), originally built as the Three Points Elementary School in 1961, is a collection of Modern buildings designed by the noted Seattle architectural firm Narramore, Bain, Brady, and Johanson, now known as NBBJ. The complex has had few alterations and is intact and well maintained. It will be 50 years old in 2011.

At that time, it will be eligible for the NRHP for its distinctive architectural characteristics, representational of educational design theories of its period, and as the work of a masterful, world-renowned architectural firm. It will also qualify for the WHR for its strong architectural qualities and its design by an influential architectural firm.

WHR-eligible Property

Helen Pierce House, 2857 Evergreen Point Road, Medina

The Helen Pierce house (Exhibit 5-5), a residence formerly known as 2857 76th Avenue NE, was constructed in 1920 and appears to be one of the original buildings in the area. Although the site may not meet NRHP eligibility criteria because of reconstruction, as well as alterations and additions since then, it is eligible for the WHR as a representative element of the early settlement of the community.

Archaeological Resources

For archaeological resources, a total of 494 shovel probes (336 in the SR 520 corridor and 158 in the Keller Mitigation Site, a proposed mitigation site) were excavated during the survey. Two archaeological resources were found, consisting of historic road segments: a two-track farm road with an associated log bridge at the Keller Mitigation Site, and an abandoned historic segment of East Lake Washington Boulevard along the corridor. Mitigation is not necessary for these archaeological resources because they



Exhibit 5-3. BurgerMaster, 10606 Northup Way, Bellevue



Exhibit 5-4. Bellevue Christian School, 7800 NE 28th Street, Medina



Exhibit 5-5. Helen Pierce House, 2857 Evergreen Point Road, Medina

What is the Keller Mitigation Site?

The Keller Mitigation Site is a site proposed by WSDOT for compensatory wetland mitigation. The site is located in the Bear Creek basin. WSDOT proposes rehabilitation of approximately 31.5 acres of wetland and wetland buffer on the site. See Chapter 6 for additional information about proposed wetland mitigation.

are not historically significant elements of a larger potentially-eligible resource.

Please refer to Appendix B, Agency and Tribal Correspondence, and Appendix K, Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum, for additional information about cultural resources.

How will construction activities affect cultural resources?

Historic Resources

Construction of the Build Alternative will affect the historic built environment properties in the APE, but none of these effects is considered adverse under Section 106 regulations and guidelines. These construction effects will be short-term and limited to specific construction activities. Throughout construction, the properties will be able to be continuously used, and no impairment is expected to the characteristics that qualify the properties for inclusion in the NRHP.

The houses located at 2851 and 2857 Evergreen Point Road may experience vibrations specifically associated with demolition of the existing Evergreen Point Road overpass and construction of the new Evergreen Point Road lid. Noise and dust generated during construction of the new lid and associated improvements to Evergreen Point Road may also affect these two properties.

The Bellevue Christian School grounds may be affected by noise and dust generated during construction because the school has exterior circulation walkways that must be used by the students and faculty throughout the school day. In addition, the physical education/outdoor play area located next to SR 520 may be affected by construction dust and noise during the school day. Noise from construction may also temporarily affect the academic environment at the school. A very small piece of school property (157 square feet) will be used temporarily under a construction easement to accommodate removal of the existing pedestrian crossing. The property may also experience vibration specifically associated with demolition of the existing Evergreen Point Road overpass and the existing pedestrian crossing, and construction of the new Evergreen Point Road lid.

All three of these properties – 2851 and 2857 Evergreen Point Road, and the Bellevue Christian School – may experience limited access or detours during certain times throughout construction, especially during the construction of the Evergreen Point Road lid and improvements to Evergreen Point Road. Traffic from construction equipment accessing the work site could generate short-term noise, vibration, and dust at these three properties, especially while accessing the work site for the Evergreen Point Road lid.

BurgerMaster at 10606 Northup Way may experience vibration specifically associated with demolition of the existing ramp loop at the northeast corner of Bellevue Way and SR 520. Noise and dust generated during construction may affect the restaurant during the day because it has exterior circulation and delivers customers' food outside to their cars. BurgerMaster may experience limited access or detours during certain times throughout construction because the section of Northup Way in front of the restaurant will be used under a construction easement, and part of it will be rebuilt, with a bike path constructed adjacent to it.

Archaeological Resources

Two known archaeological resources (a two-track farm road with an associated log bridge at the Keller Mitigation Site and an abandoned historic segment of East Lake Washington Boulevard) were identified in the project APE, but neither is considered historically significant. One has been extensively disturbed by prior development of the project area and vicinity, and the other has only limited information potential. The Build Alternative will have no effect on these known archaeological resources.

A letter of concurrence from DAHP regarding the effects analysis is included in Appendix B, Agency and Tribal Correspondence.

Because there were some portions of the APE that the project team was not able to investigate, WSDOT is also working with DAHP to develop a programmatic agreement to ensure that cultural resources are assessed on these parcels prior to initiation of construction. Please refer to Chapter 6 and to Appendix C, Programmatic Agreement, for additional information.

How will the completed project affect cultural resources?

Historic Resources

Operation of the Build Alternative will affect the historic built environment properties in the APE, but none of these effects is considered adverse under Section 106 regulations and guidelines. All of these effects will be beneficial to the historic properties.

Proposed noise walls have been incorporated into the project's design to reduce noise along much of the roadway. The proposed noise walls will have a beneficial effect on the adjacent historic properties by reducing current and anticipated noise to below existing levels.

As part of the project, new landscaped lids will be added over SR 520 at Evergreen Point Road, 92nd Avenue NE, and Hunts Point Road/84th Avenue NE. These lids will help dampen sound, provide added green space, and reconnect communities that were divided when SR 520 was built in the 1960s, enhancing and partially restoring the setting of historic properties in these communities. The lids will also help minimize the visual effect of SR 520 on the surrounding properties. Specific historic properties benefiting from the proposed noise walls and lids will be the James Arntson house and the Bellevue Christian School, described below.

The NRHP-eligible residence at 2851 Evergreen Point Road, known as the James Arntson house, will not experience any adverse effects from the Build Alternative. The Arntson house will experience beneficial visual and audible effects from the new Evergreen Point Road lid. This landscaped lid will increase green space adjacent to the property and reduce the visibility of SR 520 from the property, which will partially restore the original setting of the house. The lid and proposed noise walls will decrease the noise level at the Arntson house from operation of SR 520. The current noise level at this site exceeds 66 dBA. The lid and proposed noise walls will reduce the noise level and result in a noticeable noise decrease. For more specific information on noise effects, please refer to Appendix O, Noise Technical Memorandum.

Bellevue Christian School at 7800 NE 28th Street, an NRHP-eligible property, will not experience any adverse effects from operation of the project. The property will receive beneficial effects from the new Evergreen Point Road lid and proposed noise walls, which will reduce the existing noise level. The school will experience a visual effect from the presence of the proposed noise walls, but this effect will not be adverse. The proposed noise walls will also serve to visually screen the school from part of SR 520, to which it is currently exposed.

BurgerMaster, an NRHP-eligible property at 10606 Northup Way, will not experience any effects from operation of the freeway.

The WHR-eligible property at 2857 Evergreen Point Road, known as the Helen Pierce house, will not experience any effects from operation of the project.

In addition, no indirect effects on historic built environment properties are expected from the project.

Archaeological Resources

The completed project will have no adverse effect on archaeological resources.

A letter of concurrence from DAHP regarding the effects analysis is included in Appendix B, Agency and Tribal Correspondence.

What will happen to cultural resources if WSDOT does not build this project?

Historic Resources

The No Build Alternative assumes that only routine maintenance, repair, and minor safety improvements will take place on SR 520 in the project vicinity over the next 20 years. Therefore, no adverse effect to historic resources will occur from construction under the No Build Alternative.

Three NRHP-eligible properties and one WHR-eligible residence adjacent to SR 520 experience highway noise, air pollution, and visual intrusion from the highway, and these operational effects to historic properties will continue under the No Build Alternative.

Archaeological Resources

Two known archaeological resources have been identified in the project APE (a two-track farm road with an associated log bridge at the Keller Mitigation Site and an abandoned historic segment of East Lake Washington Boulevard), but neither is considered historically significant. Both archaeological resources are characterized by either extensive disturbance from prior development of the project area and vicinity, and/or limited information potential. The No Build Alternative will have no effect on the two known archaeological resources.