

CHAPTER 4

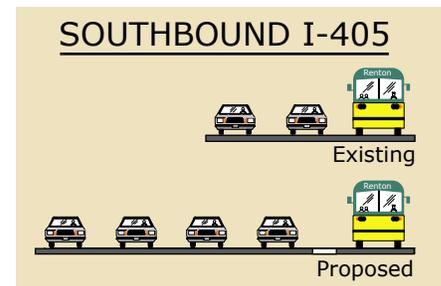
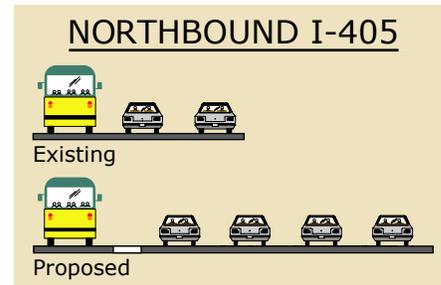
Description of the Project

The I-405, SR 169 to I-90, Renton to Bellevue Project is being designed to add bus rapid transit (BRT) facilities, make substantial lane and interchange improvements, and improve stormwater management throughout an 8-mile section of I-405 from SR 169 north to the northern on- and off-ramps of the I-90 interchange. This project description provides an overview of the project's principal features as well as other features that are necessary to support these improvements.

What are the principal features of the Renton to Bellevue Project?

The Renton to Bellevue Project extends approximately 8 miles (milepost 3.8 to milepost 11.9) from SR 169 north to the northern on- and off-ramps of the I-90 interchange (Exhibit 4-1). The principal features of the Build Alternative are (See Exhibit 4-2):

- Addition of two new general-purpose lanes on I-405 in each direction from SR 169 through the I-90 interchange;
- Realignment of I-405 to bring it up to current freeway standards where feasible;
- Construction of a new in-line BRT station in the vicinity of 112th Avenue SE;
- Construction of a transit/high occupancy vehicle (HOV) direct access ramp at N 8th Street in coordination with Sound Transit;
- Realignment and reconfiguration of eight interchanges;
- Changes to local roadways related to interchange improvements and I-405 widening;
- Construction of stormwater management facilities; and



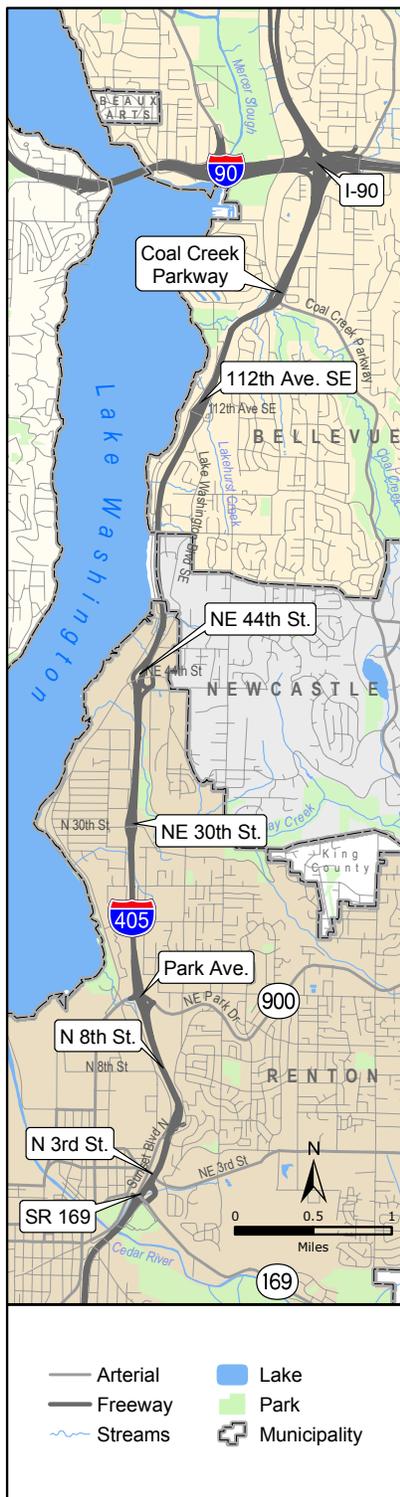
What are general-purpose lanes?

General-purpose travel lanes are lanes available to all traffic.

What are high-occupancy vehicle lanes?

High-occupancy vehicle lanes, or HOV lanes, are designed to carry a specified minimum number of passengers, such as an automobile carrying more than one person. HOV lane users include carpools and vanpools, as well as buses, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and trucks under three axles.

Exhibit 4-1: Project interchanges



- Application of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) to incorporate visually-pleasing and community-oriented features into the project design.

What benefits will the project provide?

The Renton to Bellevue Project will provide many short- and long-term benefits. Some of these benefits are:

- Shortening periods of congestion on I-405 between Renton and Bellevue;
- Increasing transit reliability and safety with the addition of a new in-line station, direct access ramps, and other transit improvements;
- Improving operations at eight interchanges;
- Improving water quality conditions in the project area by treating approximately 290 acres of new and existing impervious surfaces;
- Providing benefits to threatened salmon species by improving water quality;
- Improving fish passage by installing fish-friendly culverts or structures beneficial to fish on several streams within the area;
- Constructing four new noise walls and relocating five existing noise walls to the edge of right of way; and
- Implementing CSS design principles to improve project appearance.

The design and construction contract will include many provisions to protect the environment and to ensure compliance with project-specific permit conditions and project commitments.