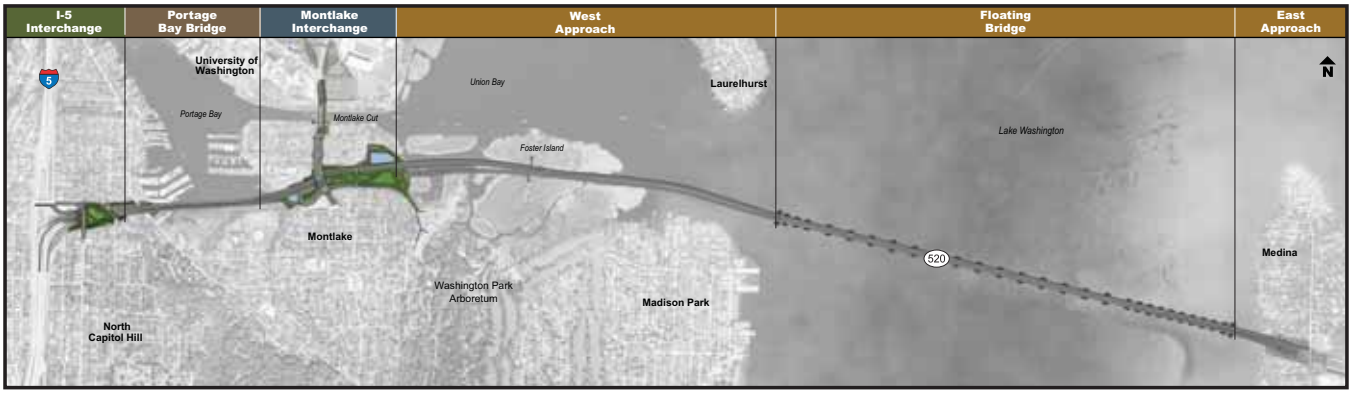
Project overview



Portage Bay Bridge

Montlake Interchange

Floating Bridge

What are the key features of the project?

The I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project includes a new floating bridge and highway with six lanes, including two general-purpose lanes and a new transit/HOV lane in each direction. Adding transit/HOV lanes makes travel in the corridor more reliable for buses and carpools and supports regional plans for completing the HOV system.

The project also takes key steps to get ready for light rail if approved in the future, help manage traffic in the Arboretum and transform SR 520 from I-5 to the Montlake interchange into a city parkway with landscaped lids and medians.

How will the project improve safety and mobility?

- The new, safer SR 520 bridges and structures will be less vulnerable to windstorms.
- The new Portage Bay Bridge and west and east approach bridges will be designed to current seismic standards.
- Four general-purpose lanes and two transit/HOV lanes will provide increased mobility and reliability for transit, carpools and general-purpose vehicles.
- Wider shoulders will enhance safety and improve reliability.
- A second bridge across the Montlake Cut will provide additional capacity for buses, carpools, bicycles and pedestrians.
- A reversible transit/HOV ramp to the I-5 express lanes headed from the Eastside to downtown Seattle in the morning and from downtown Seattle to the Eastside in the evening.

How will the project enhance the environment and surrounding communities?

- Stormwater treatment to improve the quality of runoff from SR 520 that is currently not treated.
- Noise reduction features, including quieter pavement and noise absorptive materials on portals to lids, as well as other innovative noise reduction technologies.
- Landscaped lids over sections of the highway that reconnect neighborhoods divided by construction of the original roadway.
- A bicycle and pedestrian path across Lake Washington with connections to existing regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- A new urban interchange at Montlake Boulevard including an expanded Montlake lid with passive recreation space and bus stops.