

# Montlake Project: First stage of the “Rest of the West” in Seattle



Graham rendering of the Montlake lid area - September 2018

The Washington State Department of Transportation is reconstructing State Route 520 to replace structurally vulnerable bridges, improve regional mobility and broaden the public’s travel options. Since the start of construction in 2011, we’ve completed the corridor’s Eastside improvements, built a new floating bridge, and opened the first of two parallel west approach bridges linking Seattle to the floating bridge. Moving westward, we’re now focused on completing the corridor’s remaining improvements in Seattle – the “Rest of the West.”

## Highway’s reconstruction emphasizes multimodal transportation, traffic safety

The Legislature’s 2015 Connecting Washington transportation package provides \$1.6 billion to fully fund the design and construction of SR 520’s west side improvements. To keep traffic flowing during construction and efficiently stage the work, we are rebuilding the Seattle segments in phases.

The first is the Montlake Project, which will improve multimodal transportation for both motorized and nonmotorized travel along the corridor. The project’s key elements include:

- The companion bridge to the completed West Approach Bridge North. The West Approach Bridge South, built to modern seismic standards, will extend two eastbound general-purpose lanes and one transit/HOV lane from Montlake to the new floating bridge.
- A landscaped lid over SR 520 in Montlake, with an improved Montlake Boulevard/SR 520 interchange, direct-access ramps for buses and carpools, a transit plaza, and connections to the new SR 520 Trail.
- A bike/pedestrian land bridge across SR 520, east of the lid, linking trails in the Arboretum to Seattle neighborhoods north of the Montlake Cut.
- Drainage systems and stormwater sites -- integrated into surrounding park area -- for capturing highway runoff and naturally filtering out pollutants.
- Closure and removal of the existing eastbound SR 520 on-ramp in the Arboretum.



Rendering of the Montlake land bridge, looking north.



Rendering of the new west approach bridge, looking north.

### Montlake Project timeline (estimated)

- Early 2018:** Begin contractor procurement
- Fall 2018:** Select design-build contractor
- Summer 2019:** Begin construction
- 2023-2024:** Complete construction of the Montlake Project

## Next steps for the Rest of the West

### SR 520 / I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project

- **Key elements:**
  - Adds a new, reversible transit/HOV connection between SR 520 and Seattle’s South Lake Union neighborhood alongside I-5’s express lanes.
  - With a modification to the existing Mercer Street ramp, completes a dedicated transit/HOV connection between the Eastside and Seattle’s South Lake Union area.
- **Timing (est’d):** Construction starts 2020; ends 2023

### Montlake Cut Bascule Bridge Project

- **Key elements:**
  - Plan includes a second, parallel bascule bridge over the Montlake Cut.
  - Adds travel capacity across the Cut, providing improved mobility and safer travel through the Montlake area.
  - WSDOT will conduct additional coordination in 2020 with community stakeholders and agency partners regarding the scope of this project.

### Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project

- **Key elements:**
  - Replaces the old Portage Bay Bridge with two new parallel structures (for eastbound and westbound traffic).
  - Extends the SR 520 Trail across Portage Bay.
  - Builds a landscaped Roanoke lid to reconnect communities on either side of SR 520.
  - Completes a safer, 30-foot-wide crossing over I-5 for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- **Timing (est’d):** Construction starts 2023; ends 2029

#### For more information:

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