The Washington State Department of Transportation is designing and building a safer, more reliable SR 520 corridor. In addition to planning key safety and mobility improvements, we also consider the long-term environmental, social and economic effects of our project plans.

With an eye to the future, WSDOT has developed an ambitious sustainability program that goes beyond preserving the environment and instead assures the new corridor lasts, supports the economy and health of the region and contributes to livable communities.

Sustainability in transportation requires not only a well-designed, safe and accessible transportation system, but also the integration of multimodal transportation options, like transit and cycling, and a system that can be maintained and operated efficiently.

Traffic on the existing SR 520 floating bridge
The Eastside Transit and HOV Project increases travel time reliability for transit and carpools by adding a new transit/HOV lane in both directions from Medina to Bellevue.

A new transit/HOV lane makes transit a more attractive option to driving alone while also helping to improve traffic flow by reducing buses merging across general-purpose lanes.

Project construction began in spring 2011, and is expected to wrap up in late 2013.

SR 520 Golden Thread features

- **Reduce, reuse or recycle**
  - Design-build contractor Eastside Corridor Constructors (ECC) has established a goal of recycling 80 percent of project materials.

- **Reclaim existing sites and facilities**
  - Rebuilt culverts under the highway will improve fish passage for migrating salmon.

- **Reduce greenhouse gases**
  - WSDOT and ECC are evaluating hot-mix asphalt with quartz aggregates used as brighteners to reduce lighting and energy consumption under the lids.

- **Improve access**
  - New lids will improve transit access and provide open space to reconnect communities divided by construction of the original highway.
  - Bicycle and pedestrian continuity will be improved throughout the SR 520 corridor.

**Sustainability update: Eastside Transit and HOV Project**

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**Sustainability update: Floating Bridge and Landings Project**

We will build a new, safer SR 520 floating bridge that is more resistant to windstorms and will provide improved travel operations with new transit/HOV lanes and a bicycle/pedestrian path on the north side of the bridge. Project construction began in late 2011, and we have a target date to open the new floating bridge in 2014.

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**Reduce, reuse or recycle**

- Design-build contractor Kiewit/General/Manson, A Joint Venture (KGM) has designed a more efficient bridge that uses significantly less material than the original plan.
  - The contractor plans to reuse and recycle construction materials while also incorporating recycled materials into the project.
  - The existing floating bridge will be decommissioned for reuse rather than demolished.

- **Reclaim existing sites and facilities**
  - The contractor is using existing industrial sites in Kenmore and Tacoma for pontoons, pre-cast elements and other off-site construction needs.
  - Water treatment at Kenmore will be improved.

- **Reduce greenhouse gases**
  - Construction effects will be minimized by using low-impact construction methods like electric tower cranes, minimizing in-water impacts, incorporating energy-efficient fleet and equipment, and reducing overall construction duration.
  - The construction is reducing hauling distances by using construction sites and materials that are in close proximity to the SR 520 corridor.
  - The new bridge maintenance facility will be LEED Silver certified.
  - The new floating bridge will include increased structural durability to reduce life-cycle costs.

- **Improve access**
  - The new floating bridge includes a transit/HOV lane and bicycle/pedestrian path, improving alternatives to driving alone.
  - Bicycle and pedestrian continuity will be improved throughout the SR 520 corridor.