

SR 167 NEPA Re-Evaluation Online Open House Summary

February 21, 2019

Background

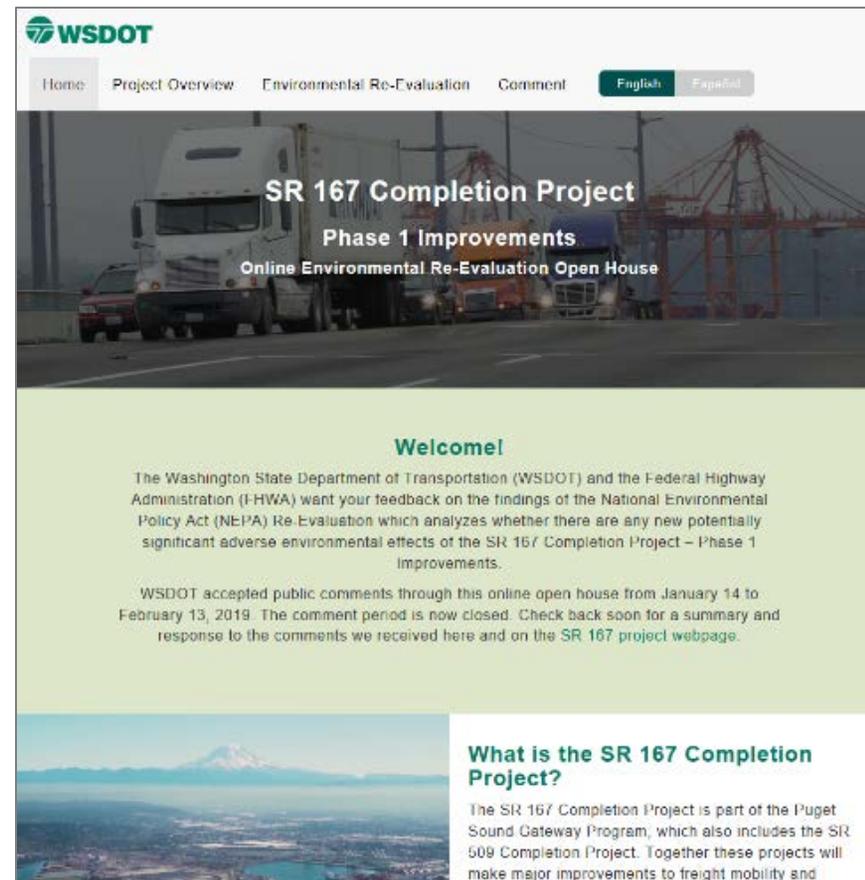
The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) completed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Re-Evaluation of the SR 167 Completion Project in late 2018. The Re-Evaluation analyzed whether there were any new potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the SR 167 Completion Project Phase 1 Improvements compared to the original 2006 Federal Environmental Impact Statement and 2007 Record of Decision.

WSDOT shared these findings, along with information about the Puget Sound Gateway Program which includes the SR 167 Completion Project through an online open house, launched on January 14, 2019. Community members were given the opportunity to comment on the Re-Evaluation through February 14, 2019. The website is still live, however the public comment feature has been disabled.

Site Content

All content on the site was available in English and Spanish. The online open house had four tabs highlighting different subject areas:

- Home/background
- Project overview
- Environmental Re-Evaluation findings



The screenshot shows the WSDOT website for the SR 167 Completion Project Phase 1 Improvements Online Environmental Re-Evaluation Open House. The page features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Project Overview', 'Environmental Re-Evaluation', and 'Comment'. There are language selection buttons for 'English' and 'Español'. The main header image shows a construction site with a large white truck and cranes. Below the header, there is a 'Welcome!' section with text explaining the project and the open house. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'What is the SR 167 Completion Project?' with a background image of a mountain range.

SR 167 NEPA Re-Evaluation Online Open House home page.

- Comment section

Home

Visitors first landed on the Home page, which summarized the Puget Sound Gateway Program and the SR 167 Completion Project at a high level and explained the purpose of the online open house.

Project Overview

The Project Overview page described the SR 167 Completion project in detail. It displayed a timeline for the right of way acquisition, design and construction of Stages 1 and 2, a vicinity map of the proposed alignment, and key project features.

This page also highlighted the Riparian Restoration Program at Hylebos Creek, Surprise Lake Tributary and Wapato Creek. The page concluded with a brief discussion of funding sources and how tolling is intended to support the project.



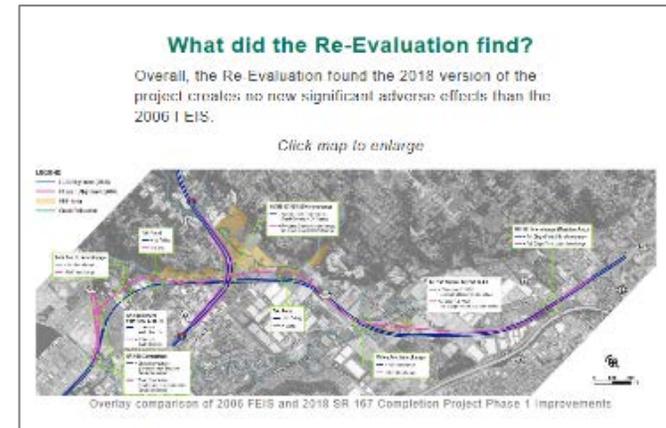
The Project Overview page oriented visitors to the SR 167 Completion Project.

Environmental Re-Evaluation

Next, the Environmental Re-Evaluation page explained the Re-Evaluation process and detailed the key findings. Maps, including an overlay comparison, displayed the differences between the 2006 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Preferred Alternative and the 2018 Phase 1 Design. The page also included links to the NEPA Re-Evaluation report and appendices.

Comment

The site invited visitors to take notes on each page as they navigated through the information presented. On the final Comment page, users compiled their notes in a form, where they could edit or include additional comments, and submit them for inclusion in this summary report. The last page also listed Chris Hoffman's email address for users to send additional comments or questions about the project, which remains on the site now that comment features have been disabled.



The Environmental Re-Evaluation page provided maps to compare Phase 1 Improvements with the 2006 FEIS.

Re-Evaluation Documents

Review the full NEPA Re-Evaluation Report and appendices below:

- [SR 167 Completion Environmental Re-evaluation](#)
- [SR 167 Re-Evaluation Form](#)
- [Attachment A – Transportation Discipline Report](#)
- [Attachment B – Environmental Justice Discipline Report](#)
- [Attachment C – Water Resources Technical Memorandum](#)

All SR 167 NEPA Re-Evaluation documents were available in PDF format on the online open house site.

Notification

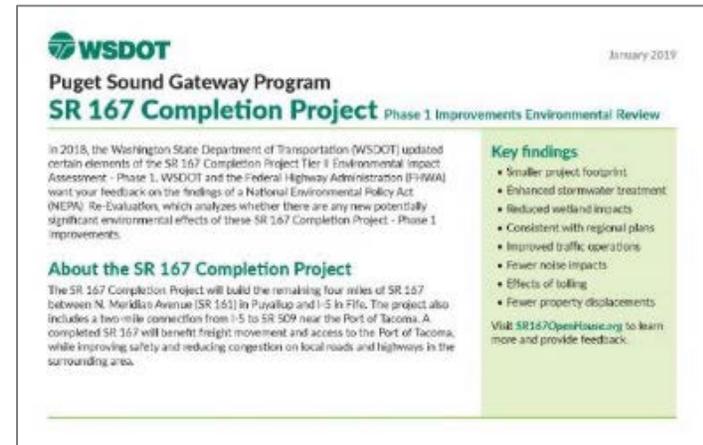
By the numbers:

- Folios with an invitation to attend the open house were sent to 4,086 residents and businesses
- 2,392 individuals received an email via the SR 167 Project listserv
- 27 Steering Committee members received an email notification for the online open house
- 11 social service providers also received email notification
- Two Facebook posts (101,257 followers)
- One Twitter post (283,000 followers)

We mailed a notification to all residents and businesses within a half-mile radius of the entire SR 167 Project alignment, a total of 4,086 addresses. The notification was in the form of a folio, which included key information and a map of the project. The back of the mailer contained information about nearby libraries with hard copies of the report and both an email and mailing address to send comments for those who did not use the online open house site. The information on the back of the mailer was translated into Spanish.

A total of 2,430 individuals received a notification about the online open house via email.

A link to the online open house was also included in the Project News section of the SR 167 Completion Project and Puget Sound Gateway webpages and posted to WSDOT's Facebook and Twitter account.



The mailer sent to addresses within a half-mile radius of the project alignment contained key findings, a vicinity map and directions to leave a comment.

Website Traffic and Social Shares

The online open house received 881 unique visitors during the 30-day comment period, 128 of whom accessed the Comment page.

WSDOT posted a link to the online open house twice on Facebook and once on Twitter. The Facebook posts were shared a total of 27 times and received a total of 99 reactions and 21 comments. The Twitter post received one like and one comment.

Comment Summary

WSDOT invited the community to submit comments through the online open house, via a project email and by postal mail. We received a total of 10 comments – one via email and nine through the online open house.

None of the comments we received addressed the findings of the NEPA Re-Evaluation, but focused instead on various aspects of the project, including:

- Tolling
- Project timeline
- Local congestion and problem areas
- Project design
- Signals/signage

The SR 167 Project team prepared responses to the comments. The comments and responses are provided in the following section of this summary. WSDOT has posted this summary to the SR 167 Completion Project webpage and the online open house site, which will remain live for 12 months. Everyone who submitted a comment has received an email from WSDOT which contains a link to this summary.



Facebook posts on January 16 and February 13 drove traffic to the online open house.