



## A message from the Administrators

Greetings,

We are sharing with you this annual update on our work to reconstruct and improve State Route 520 and its multimodal connections to other travel routes. While we've already completed SR 520's Eastside segment, a new floating bridge, and the first of two parallel bridges over Union Bay, much work remains. Specifically, we're focused now on the area between Lake Washington and I-5, what we call the "Rest of the West."

The first phase of our west side construction - known as the Montlake Project - began last summer. You'll see much more work taking place in Montlake in 2020 as crews begin constructing a new Montlake interchange and lid, and a new bridge over Union Bay for eastbound traffic. Other Rest of the West projects, as shown on the map below, will follow.

Inside this mailer you'll find project-related highlights of the year just past, and a snapshot of key activities we expect to carry out in 2020. One item involves the recent closure of the Montlake Market; we hope to know within the next few months if our efforts to help secure a smaller market or food service on a portion of the site will be successful. We also will continue working with the Governor's Office and Legislature to determine what effect I-976, the car-tab initiative, may have on the SR 520 Program. We'll keep you informed as we learn more about these issues.

As always, we thank you for your interest and patience as we work to deliver the benefits of the new SR 520 corridor. We hope you find this newsletter informative. Please feel free to contact us with any questions - and have a great 2020!



Denise Cieri, P.E.



Omar Jepperson, P.E.





**Bridge Replacement  
and HOV Program**

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**2019  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW**

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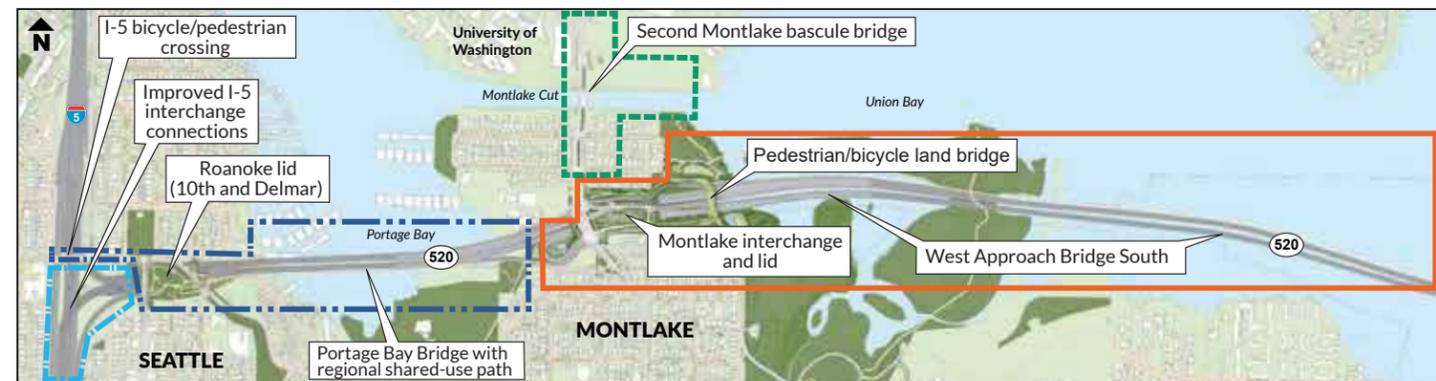


*Denise Cieri*

Administrator, Alaskan Way Viaduct and  
SR 520 Megaprograms

*Omar Jepperson*

Deputy Administrator, SR 520 Bridge Replacement  
and HOV Program



**SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes  
Connection Project**  
Construction estimated start: 2020  
Estimated duration: 3 years

**Portage Bay Bridge and  
Roanoke Lid Project**  
Construction estimated start: 2023  
Estimated duration: 6 years

**Montlake Cut Bascule Bridge Project**  
WSDOT will coordinate with community  
stakeholders and agency partners  
regarding project scope and timing

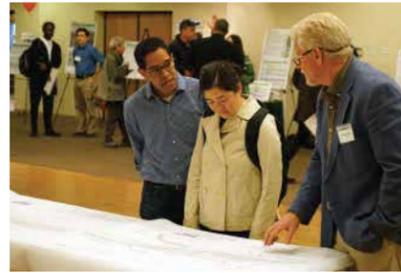
**Montlake Project**  
Construction start: Summer 2019  
Estimated duration: 4-5 years



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# 2019 recap



## WINTER

## SPRING

## SUMMER

## FALL

## WINTER

### JANUARY 2019

- WSDOT gives its Montlake Project contractor, Graham, official notice to proceed to complete the final design of project elements and to begin construction.



\* Conceptual rendering of Montlake transit plaza, above, subject to change.

### MARCH 2019

- SR 520 floating bridge sentinels shine teal for the Mariners' season-opening home game.

### APRIL 2019

- Graham crews begin exploratory ground and soils testing in Montlake in preparation for project construction.
- Legislature directs WSDOT to explore options for a small market or food service to operate during

construction, and to sell the Montlake Market property once Montlake Project is complete.

### MAY 2019

- WSDOT concludes analysis of Montlake Market, determines preserving market is not feasible.
- WSDOT holds public meeting regarding upcoming SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project.

### JUNE 2019

- Graham hosts a preconstruction open house for the Montlake Project.
- WSDOT kicks off summerlong public engagement to refine designs for the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project.

- WSDOT completes a series of five community meetings on diversity and inclusive contracting.

### JULY 2019

- SR 520 floating bridge sentinels shine red, white and blue for Independence Day.
- Forty-five community members attend the first of three WSDOT community and stakeholder workshops to help WSDOT refine design elements of the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project.

### AUGUST 2019

- Montlake Project construction begins.
- WSDOT hosts the second Portage Bay Bridge community and stakeholder design workshop.

- Contractor crews continue to investigate soil and groundwater contamination around the 76 gas station and Montlake Market in preparation for environmental cleanup of the property.

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- The Montlake Project Information Center opens, providing a drop-in location for the public to meet and talk with staff about the project.
- WSDOT hosts the final Portage Bay community & stakeholder workshop.

### OCTOBER 2019

- WSDOT installs 27 thinner steel cover plates on the SR 520 Trail,

providing a smoother ride for bicyclists crossing Lake Washington on the floating bridge.

- Westbound SR 520 traffic lanes reduce from three to two between the floating bridge and Montlake in preparation for removing and replacing the old eastbound lanes over Union Bay.
- WSDOT holds a second open house on the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project, and provides updated information on the other SR 520 "Rest of the West" projects.
- WSDOT Diversity Manager Regina Glenn named Diversity Advocate of the Year by the National Association of Minority Contractors'

Washington chapter and Outstanding Leader by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials' Washington chapter.

### NOVEMBER 2019

- Nearly 500 people respond to an online WSDOT survey regarding potential for a small market or food service in Montlake during Montlake Project construction.
- All SR 520 traffic over Union Bay shifts onto a single, two-way bridge to make room for construction of new eastbound lanes between Montlake and the floating bridge.

- Following voters' approval of I-976, Gov. Inslee directs WSDOT to postpone highway projects not yet under construction, including the SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project.

### DECEMBER 2019

- Graham crews open a new, temporary eastbound SR 520 on-ramp in Montlake, and permanently close the old on-ramp in the Washington Park Arboretum.
- Graham hosts two public open houses regarding project construction.

## SR 520: by the numbers in 2019



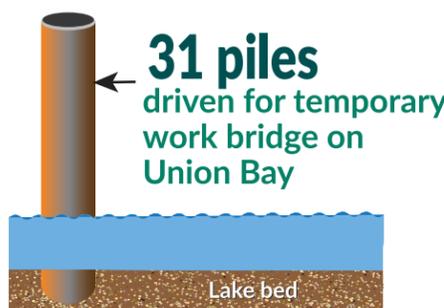
**289,484 bicyclists**  
on the SR 520 Trail



**1,846 responses**  
from WSDOT to community  
comments and questions

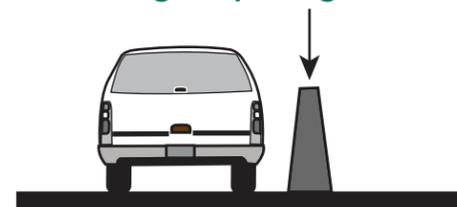


**2,541 participants**  
in SR 520 public meetings  
(in person and online)



**31 piles**  
driven for temporary  
work bridge on  
Union Bay

**13,000 feet**  
of traffic barrier installed  
for highway realignment



**35 sentinel**  
color changes for  
community events  
& nonprofit causes



## What's ahead for SR 520 in 2020

- Montlake Project:** You'll see even more project elements begin to take shape, such as a new Montlake lid. You'll also see the gradual removal of the old eastbound bridge over Union Bay as crews simultaneously begin constructing a new, three-lane bridge for eastbound traffic.
- SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project:** We'll continue refining our engineering and design work to prepare for construction, and provide additional community updates on the next steps for this project.
- Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project:** On the heels of our 2019 community design process, we'll publish a summary report in early 2020 outlining the public feedback we heard and project design refinements that are moving forward. Look for additional opportunities to comment on construction and traffic management plans and project permits as we prepare for construction to start in 2023.
- Montlake Cut Bascule Bridge Project:** We plan to conduct additional community engagement to identify what transportation enhancements would best help move people more safely and efficiently through the busy Montlake Boulevard corridor.



Conceptual illustration of a new lid over SR 520 in Montlake, looking west.



A new Portage Bay city park, supported by WSDOT mitigation funds, will open in 2020.