

Building SR 520 in Seattle

Summer 2013

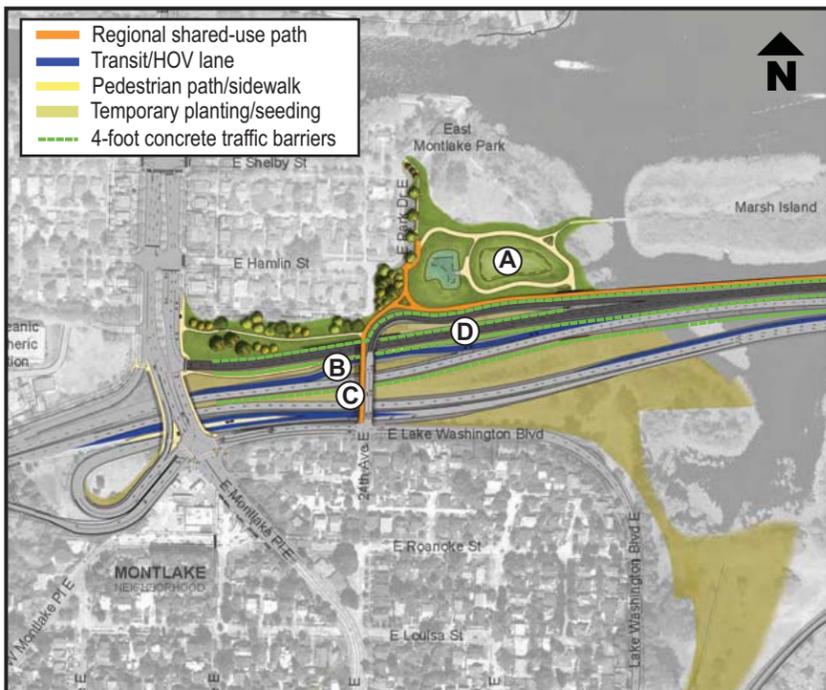
West Approach Bridge North Project

The existing west approach bridge connects the floating bridge to the Montlake interchange. The hollow columns supporting the bridge are vulnerable to a catastrophic earthquake, and the four-lane roadway has narrow shoulders and lacks transit/HOV lanes. The new west approach bridge will be built as two separate structures, a north bridge and a south bridge. At this time, WSDOT is funded to build the north half of the west approach bridge.

When complete, the West Approach Bridge North will connect westbound traffic from the floating bridge to Montlake. It will also feature a new 14-foot-wide regional bicycle/pedestrian path and a dedicated transit/HOV lane.

Eastbound traffic will continue to use the existing west approach structure until funding is provided for the south half of the new west approach bridge.

Construction is scheduled to start in summer 2014, and we plan to open the new west approach bridge north to drivers in fall 2016.



Bicyclists and pedestrians will enjoy a 14-foot-wide shared-use path.

LEGEND:

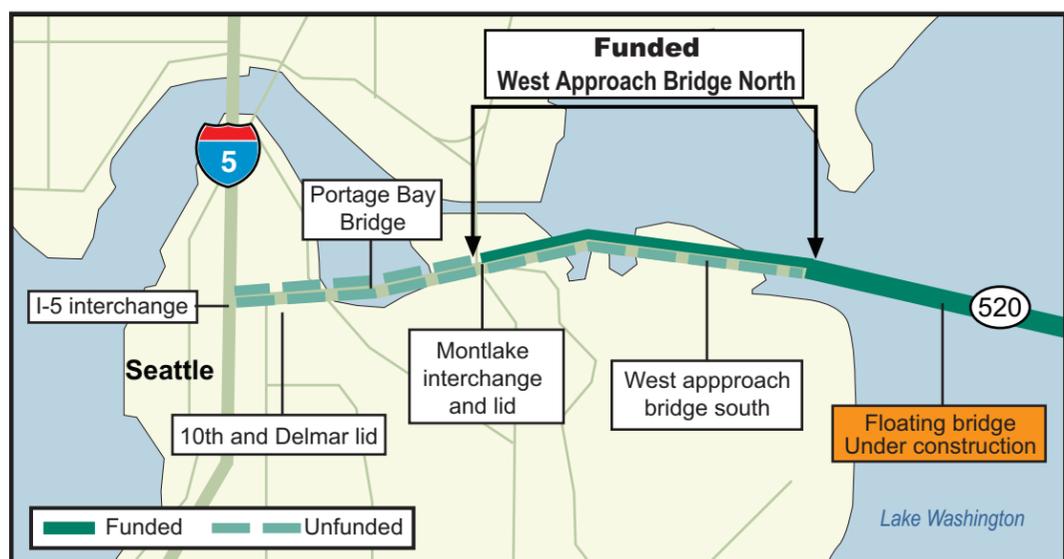
- (A) New stormwater treatment facility
- (B) Relocated Montlake freeway transit stop
- (C) New 24th Avenue East off-ramp and shared-use path
- (D) Two westbound lanes to Montlake Boulevard

What's next in Seattle?

WSDOT is continuing to seek funding to complete the remaining project elements in Seattle:

- West approach bridge (south half)
- Montlake interchange and lid
- Portage Bay Bridge
- 10th and Delmar area lid
- I-5 interchange

As funding is received, WSDOT will continue to work with the City of Seattle, surrounding neighborhoods and the traveling public to finalize design and construct the remaining portions of the corridor. Construction phasing will be determined as funding is received.



Program contact information

For more information:

Phone: 1-888-520-NEWS (6397)

Email: SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge

Address: SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program
999 3rd Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98104

Construction and closure information available online

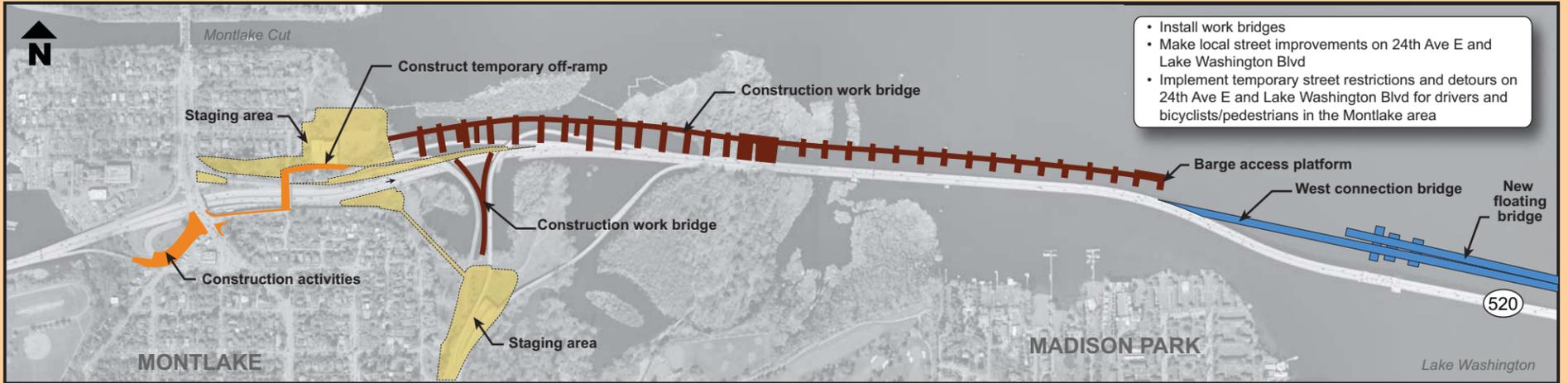
www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/WeekendClosures.htm



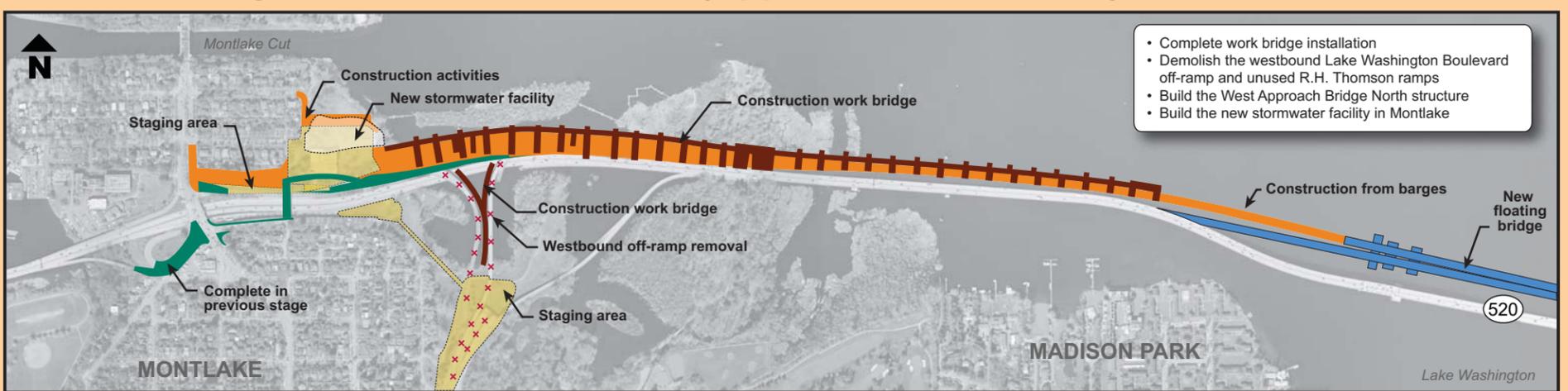
Coming soon: West Approach Bridge North construction Summer 2014 through Fall 2016

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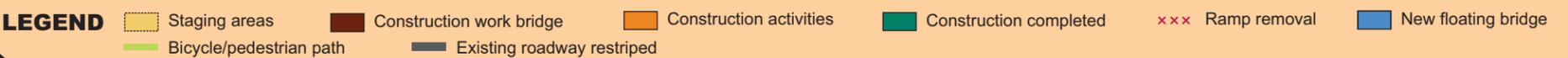
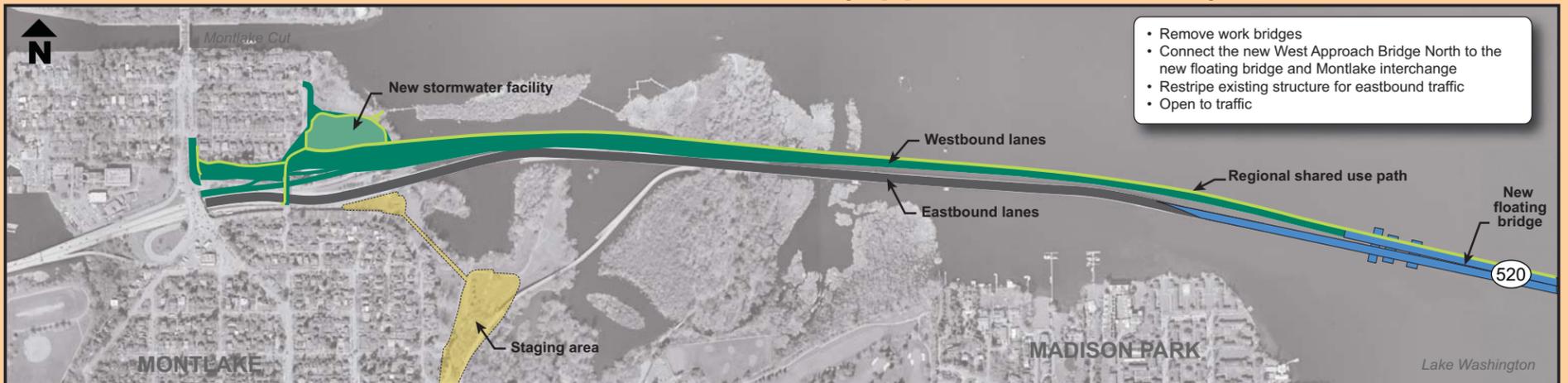
Prepare: Early construction activities (Approx. 4-6 months)



Build: Primary construction activities (Approx. 20-24 months)



Connect: Final WABN construction activities (Approx. 2-3 months)



How will WSDOT minimize construction effects?

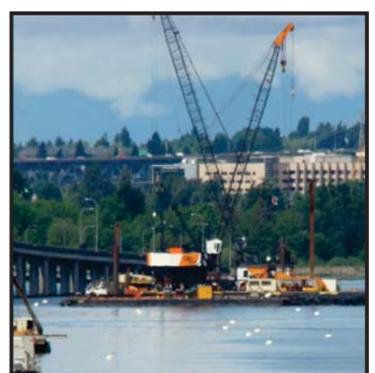
As the West Approach Bridge North project moves forward WSDOT will employ construction techniques that minimize effects on neighbors and the traveling public, including the following:

- Keep SR 520 open to traffic during construction with limited weekend and evening closures (in coordination with other projects)
- Build the west approach structure using work bridges and barges in order to limit truck traffic on local streets
- Restrict nighttime construction work to reduce noise effects
- Evaluate ways to buffer and screen adjacent communities from construction activities
- Continue to coordinate with the community and City of Seattle on interim noise reduction measures

How can I get involved and find out more?

WSDOT is working to develop a Community Construction Management Plan (CCMP) that outlines best practices and communication tools to minimize construction effects. For example, the CCMP could identify opportunities for noise buffers and screening where appropriate for the duration of construction.

Additional detail about the CCMP process for West Approach Bridge North project will be made available on WSDOT's website, and will be provided at project-related public meetings later this year.



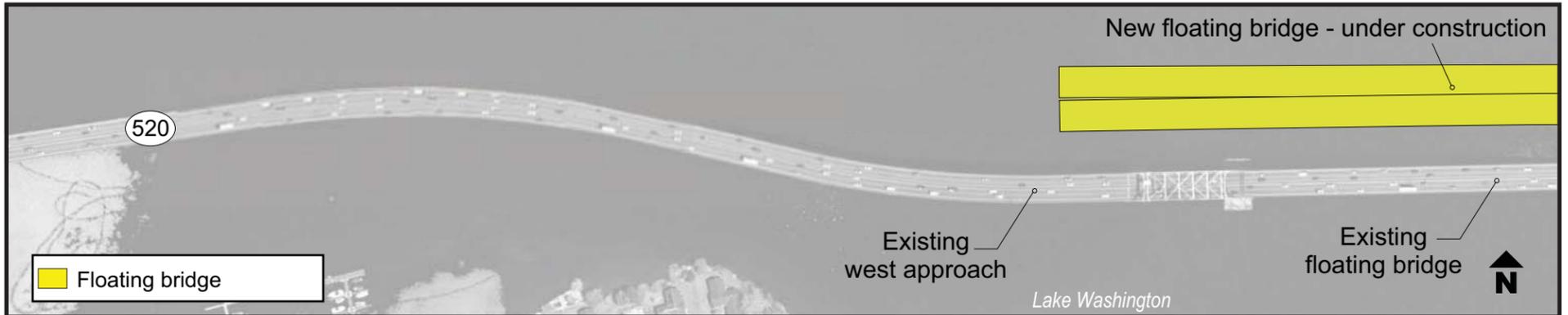
Crews use construction barges to complete work on new in-water structures on Lake Washington.

How will the West Approach Bridge North interface with other planned SR 520 projects?

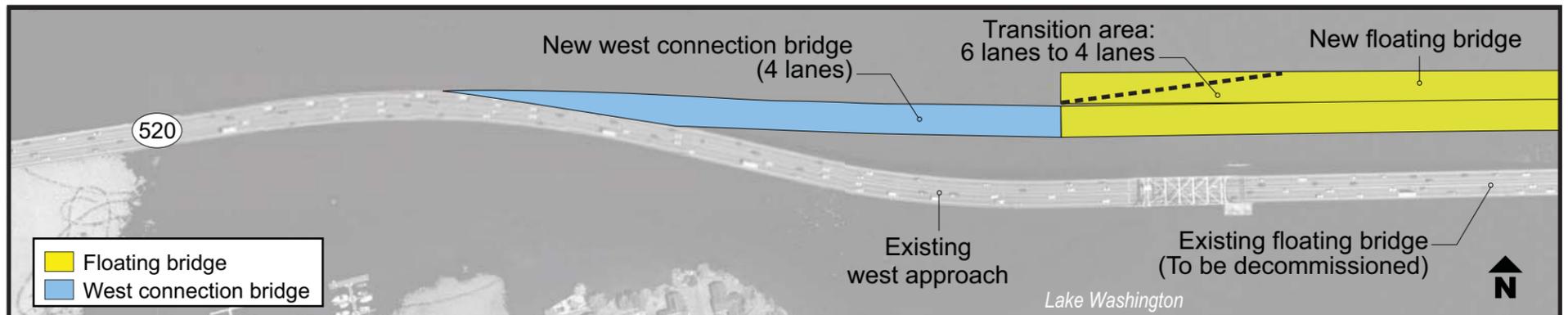
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The construction schedule for WABN is carefully timed to coincide with activities for both the new floating bridge and the west connection bridge:

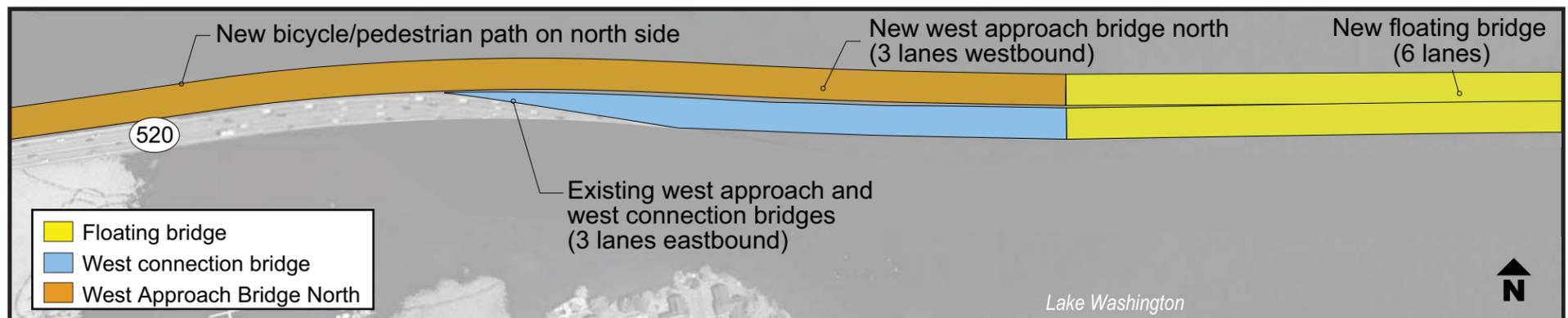
Floating bridge: Work on the new floating bridge is already underway on Lake Washington.



West connection bridge: Later in 2013, we'll begin building a structure that will connect the new floating bridge to the existing west approach bridge.

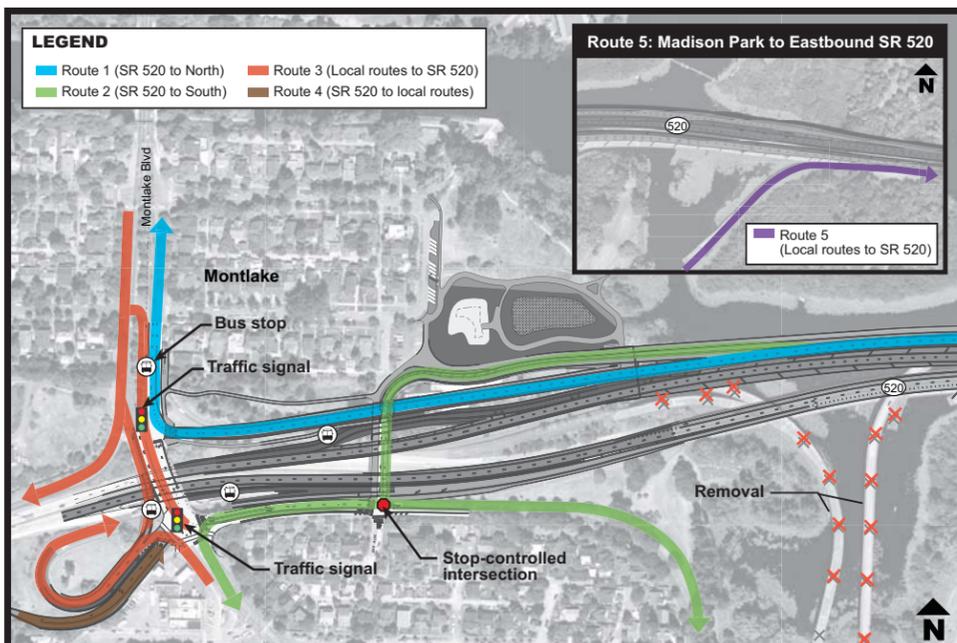


West Approach Bridge North: Starting in summer 2014, we will start work on the WABN. When WABN is complete, westbound traffic will travel on the new structure while eastbound traffic will travel on the existing west approach and the west connection bridge.



How will I drive around the Montlake area when the West Approach Bridge North is complete?

When the West Approach Bridge North project is complete, traffic access in the Montlake area will be similar to today. The key difference for drivers is that the westbound Arboretum off-ramp will be removed, and its function replaced by a new off-ramp at 24th Avenue East (indicated by the green line below). Local routes in the Montlake area are also shown below.



Community and environmental benefits



Bicyclists travel along Lake Washington Boulevard.

WSDOT strives to be a good neighbor and plans to implement a number of wetland and park improvements as part of the West Approach Bridge North (WABN) project.

Environmental enhancements will be made in the Arboretum at the Arboretum Creek, Azalea Way Pond, and Foster Island, and at sites on Lake Washington, Union Bay, Cedar River, and other locations.

Community improvements include a new multi-use trail in the Arboretum and a public park north of SR 520 on Portage Bay. A new, landscaped stormwater facility will also improve local trail connections near East Montlake Park.

When the WABN structure opens to drivers, it will also open to bicyclists. The new 14-foot-wide bicycle and pedestrian path on the north side will connect to the Montlake area, providing a second connection across Lake Washington.

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