



SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program



I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

Crews conduct in-water geotechnical drilling near SR 520 in Seattle

August 2012

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is moving forward with the SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project. This project will replace the SR 520 floating bridge, approaches, roadway and interchanges from I-5 to the eastern shore of Lake Washington.

What work is taking place? Why conduct a geotechnical study?

We are continuing the in-water portion of geotechnical investigations of the areas surrounding the planned bridge structures west of the floating bridge, starting in early August 2012 and continuing for up to four weeks. In-water and on-land investigations began in 2011. This portion of the in-water study provides valuable information to our engineers and potential contractors as they design foundations for the new bridges. A small crew will use a drill rig mounted on a barge to complete the work.

How loud will the work be?

The drill rig will sound similar to background noise from the highway. Residents may also hear an occasional hammering sound during soil sampling. When in use, the noise generated by the soil sampling equipment may reach up to 70 decibels, which is similar to the noise levels of highway traffic when standing approximately 50 feet away. All work will occur during daylight hours, generally between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Crews will use barge-mounted geotechnical equipment.

How has WSDOT prepared for the work?

WSDOT has coordinated with the city of Seattle and obtained all necessary approvals prior to conducting the work. WSDOT is observing best management practices to avoid and minimize any potential environmental effects of the work.

What are the project's next steps?

Components of the I-5 to Medina project in Seattle, from I-5 to the west end of the floating bridge are not yet funded for construction. This fieldwork supports the planning process and helps us advance the design of the project.



Approximate area of in-water geotechnical work in Seattle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at:

SR 520 Fieldwork Hotline: 206-708-4657

Visit us on the Web:

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

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