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

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.

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.

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

Join our e-mail update list by sending a message to:
SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Compliance Team at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI: WSDOT ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding WSDOT's Title VI Program contact Jonté Sutton at 360-705-7082 or SuttonJ@wsdot.wa.gov.