

# SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program

**Paula J. Hammond, P.E.**  
Secretary

**David L. Dye, P.E.**  
Deputy Secretary

**Steve Reinmuth**  
Chief of Staff

**Julie Meredith, P.E.**  
SR 520 Program Director

**Jennifer Ziegler**  
Government Relations and  
Communications Director, Toll Division

**King County Council Committee of the Whole**  
**September 19, 2011**

# Presentation overview

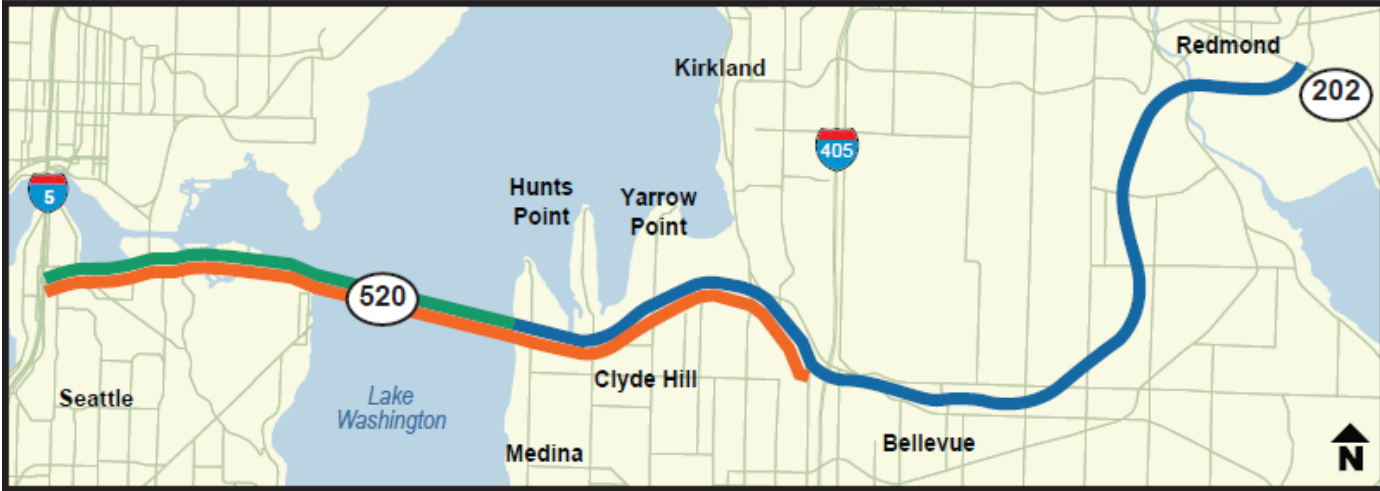
- SR 520 Program overview
- Design-build contracts
- Highlights from I-5 to Medina Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Coordination with King County
- Next steps



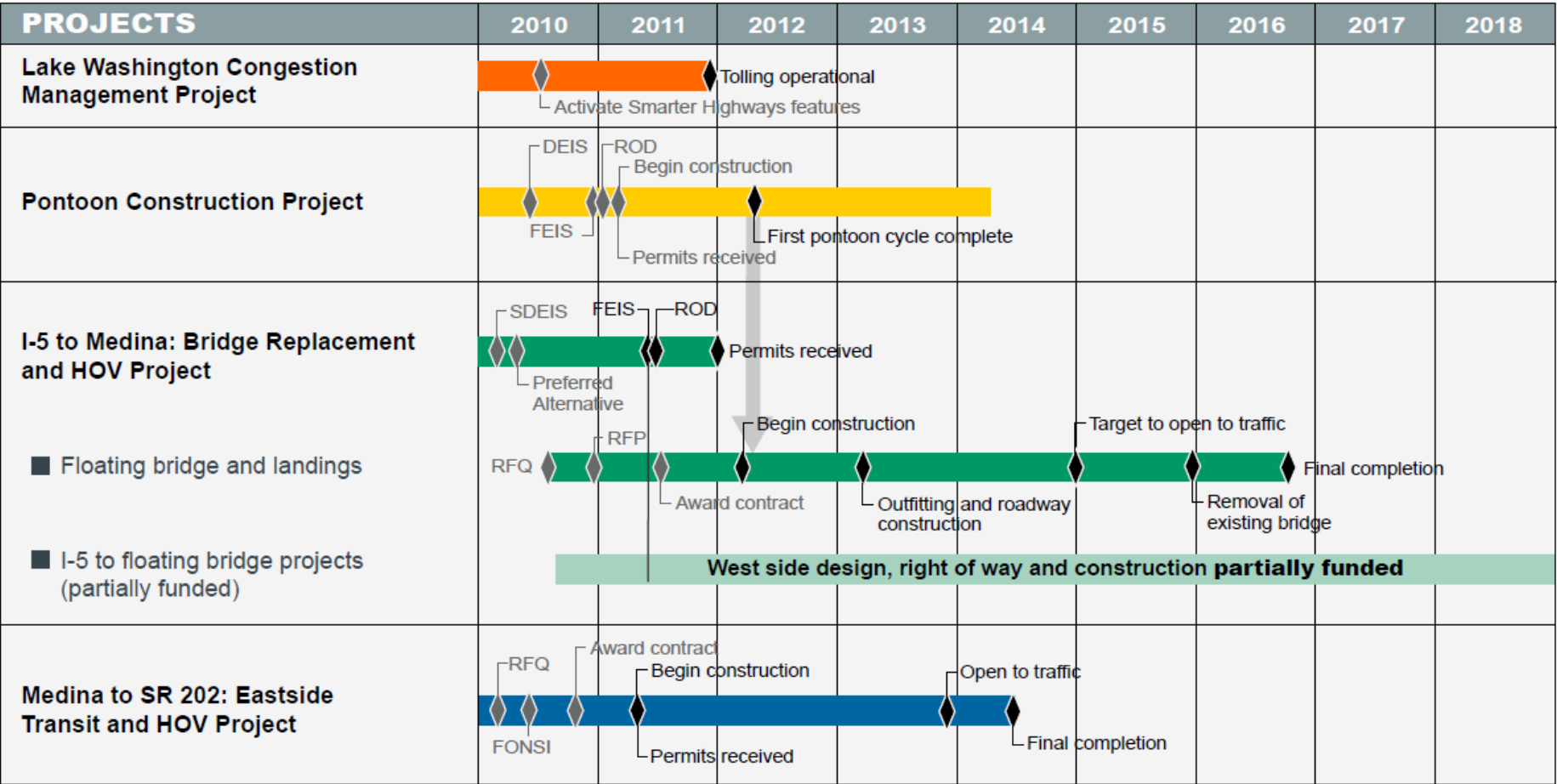
# SR 520 program description

The SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program will replace the Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges and improve the existing roadway between I-5 in Seattle and SR 202 on the Eastside.

- I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project** – Replaces the SR 520 floating bridge and landings, and interchanges and roadway between I-5 and the eastern shore of Lake Washington.
- Medina to SR 202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project** – Completes and improves the transit and HOV system from Evergreen Point Road in Medina to the SR 202 interchange in Redmond.
- Lake Washington Congestion Management Project** – Implements tolls on the existing SR 520 floating bridge, and activates Smarter Highways features from I-5 to I-405.
- Pontoon Construction Project** – Advances pontoon construction to restore the floating section of the SR 520 bridge in the event of a catastrophic failure and to store those pontoons until needed.



# SR 520 program schedule



UPDATED: Sept. 8, 2011

# SR 520 design-build contracts

| Project  | Value  | Location   | Schedule   | Goals  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Pontoon Construction Project</b>                                | Awarded contract - \$367.3 million<br><br>Kiewit- General Joint Venture        | Aberdeen, WA   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award contract – Jan. 2009</li> <li>• FEIS – Dec. 2010</li> <li>• ROD – Jan. 2011</li> <li>• Begin construction – Feb. 2011</li> <li>• 1st cycle of pontoons – Spring 2012</li> <li>• Last cycle of pontoons – Spring 2014</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6% DBE Goal</li> <li>• 50,000 training hours</li> <li>• 15% apprenticeship</li> <li>• State and federal prevailing wage</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Eastside Transit and HOV Project</b>                            | Awarded contract- \$306.3 million<br><br>Eastside Corridor Constructors        | East side of Lake Washington (Medina to Bellevue)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FONSI – May 2010</li> <li>• Award contract – Nov. 2010</li> <li>• Began construction – April 2011</li> <li>• Substantially complete – Dec. 2013</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11% DBE Goal</li> <li>• 58,500 training hours</li> <li>• 15% apprenticeship</li> <li>• State and federal prevailing wage</li> </ul> |
| <b>SR 520 Evergreen Point Floating Bridge and Landings Project</b> | Awarded contract- \$586.5 million<br><br>Kiewit- General- Manson Joint Venture | Lake Washington; TBD Production and Outfitting sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEIS – June 2011</li> <li>• ROD- August 2011</li> <li>• Award contract – August , 2011</li> <li>• Open to traffic – Dec. 2014 (goal)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7% DBE Goal</li> <li>• 74,600 training hours</li> <li>• 15% apprenticeship</li> <li>• State and federal prevailing wage</li> </ul>  |

Updated: June 2011



# Pontoon Construction Project in Aberdeen



Photo provided by Soundview Aerial Photography

# Eastside Transit and HOV Project





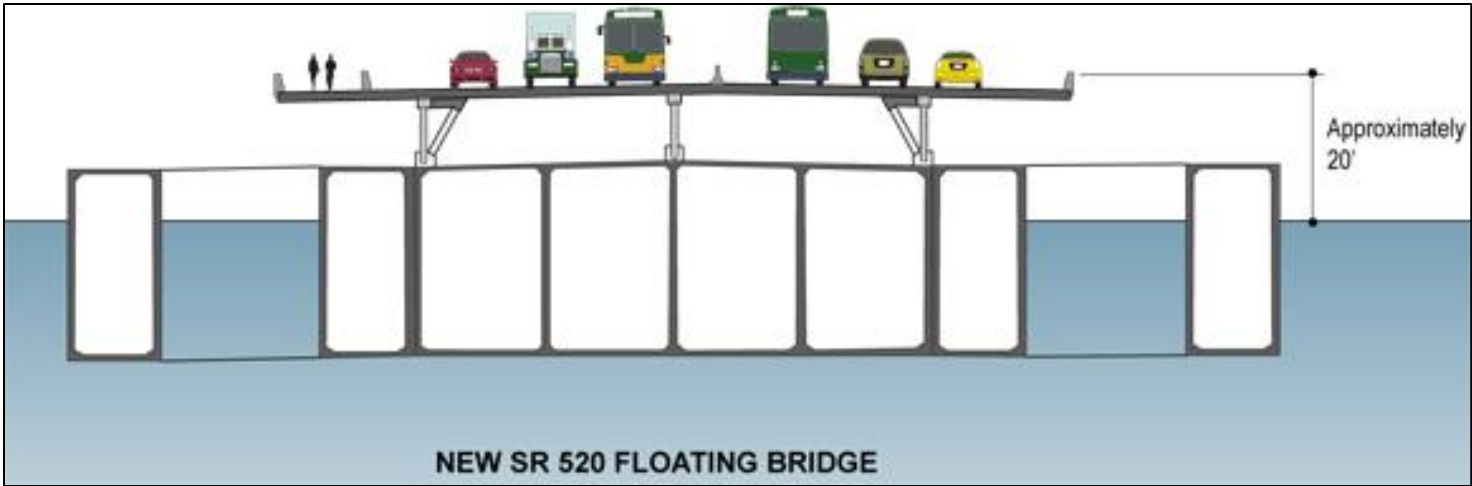
# Eastside Transit and HOV Project



June 2011: Workers strain under the weight of a huge concrete culvert section being placed in a deep trench beneath SR 520.



# Floating bridge and landings



# FEIS: Preferred alternative key features

- A six lane corridor with four general purpose lanes, a new transit/HOV lane in each direction, and a new bicycle/pedestrian path.
- Improved transit connections and travel times.
- Accommodation of future light rail.
- Improved bicycle and pedestrian trail connections.
- Landscaped lids that reconnect neighborhoods.
- Noise reduction measures.
- Improved stormwater treatment.
- Park enhancements and new and restored wetland and aquatic habitat.



# FEIS: Community comments incorporated

- ✓ Designed the corridor to accommodate no more than six-lanes.
- ✓ Reduced width of Portage Bay Bridge
- ✓ Located urban interchange at Montlake
- ✓ Expanded the lid at Montlake
- ✓ Provided dedicated transit/HOV lane on Montlake Boulevard
- ✓ Eliminated Arboretum ramps
- ✓ Lowered height of the floating bridge
- ✓ Began planning for the implementation of Arboretum traffic management and calming
- ✓ Ensured the new bridge is designed to accommodate future light rail
- ✓ Provided funds for Montlake Triangle Project
- ✓ Set triggers based for determining necessity of Second Montlake Bridge



# Summary of findings: Transportation

- Completes the transit/HOV system.
- Adds new commuting options.
- Accommodates bus rapid transit.
- Moves more people daily fewer vehicles.
- Reduces traffic volumes through the Arboretum.



# Summary of findings: Travel Times

Drivers, buses and carpools traveling on key regional routes will get to their destinations faster when this project is complete. The FEIS shows:

- **SR 520 corridor:** Up to 25 minutes faster on SR 520 between I-5 and Redmond.
- **I-5 corridor:** Up to 24 minutes faster on I-5 between I-90 and N.E. 45th Street.
- **Montlake Boulevard:** Up to 12 minutes faster on local streets in the Montlake area



# Coordination with King County Metro

WSDOT has coordinated regularly with Metro throughout planning for the SR 520 program:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2008    | <b>SR 520 High Capacity Transit Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-author of final report, with WSDOT and Sound Transit.</li></ul>   |
| 2010    | <b>Montlake Triangle Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supported planning for Montlake Triangle transit, bicycle and pedestrian connections, with WSDOT, Sound Transit and the University of Washington.</li></ul> <b>ESSB 6392 Workgroup</b> <p>Key in developing two reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design refinements and transit connections</li><li>• High capacity transit planning and financing</li></ul> |
| 2011    | <b>Seattle Community Design Process</b> <p>Part of a community process to develop urban design and sustainability principles that improve the environment and mobility.</p>   |
| Ongoing | Regular coordination on traffic modeling for environmental documentation and transit infrastructure planning.   |



# I-5 to Medina Project: Next steps and early implementation

- Public involvement
  - Seattle Community Design Collaboration
  - Community Construction Management Plan
- City of Seattle coordination
  - Montlake Triangle
  - Traffic calming
  - Second bascule bridge
  - Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Funding



# Questions?

For more information:

**Visit:** [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge)

**E-mail:** SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov

**Call:** 1-888-520-NEWS (6397)

**Mail:** Washington State Department of Transportation  
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program  
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520  
Seattle, WA 98101



# Progress on preparation for tolling on SR 520

Each of these elements need to be ready before we start tolling:

- Transponders/passes
- Marketing
- Toll rates & WACs
- Tolling signing
- Customer Service Center
- Toll Collection System







# Testing

Started in April and completed in May, this phase tests the system to determine if it does what it is expected to do. Bugs are identified, fixed and retested.

## Functional Testing

Started in June and scheduled through November, this phase retests functionality in the system. This testing is repeated in a series: identify problem-fix-retest until all bugs are fixed.

## Regression testing

## System assessment

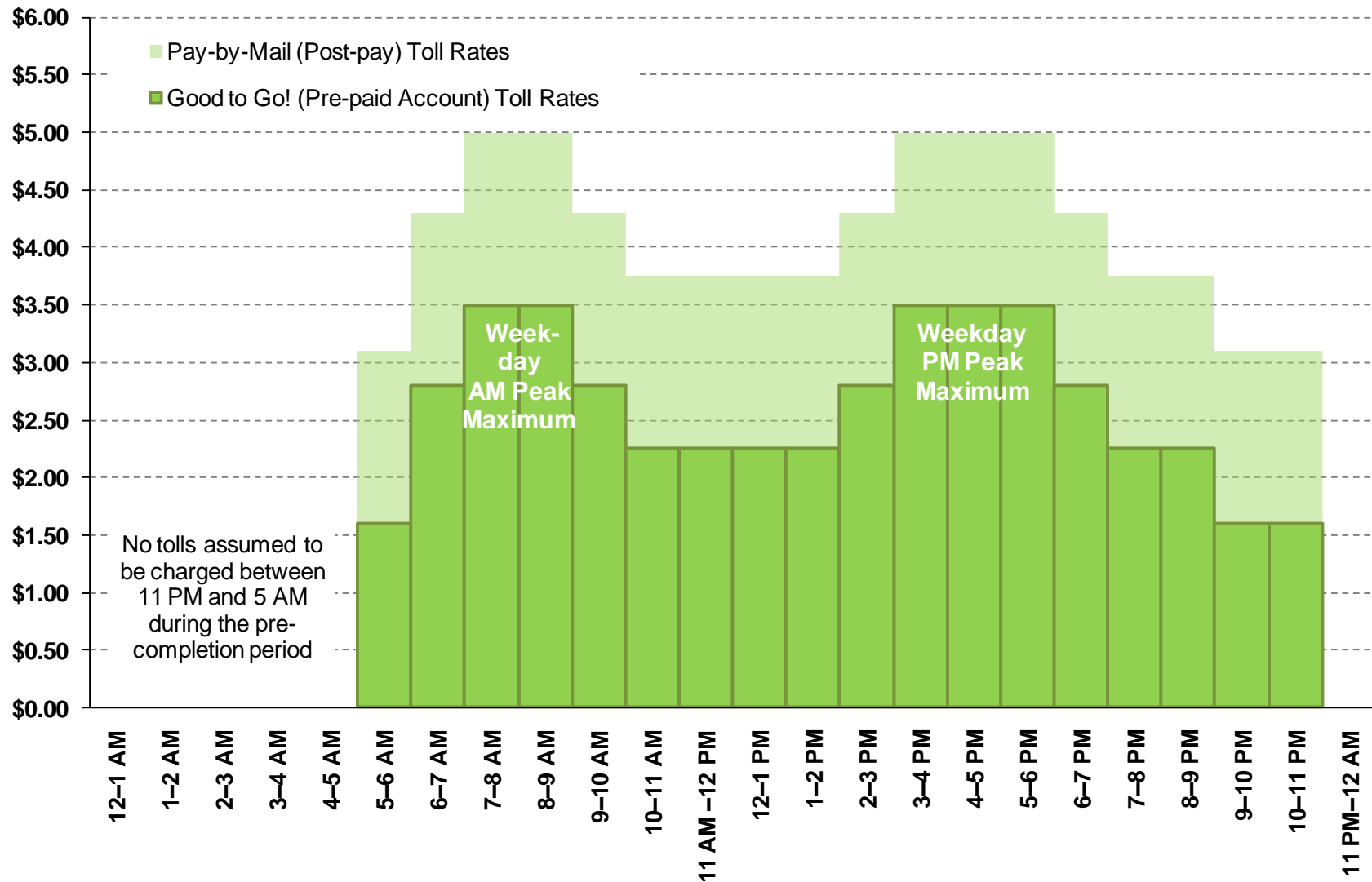
Added at the request of the Expert Review Panel, this phase provides early assessment of Customer Service Center system's ability to process transactions from the toll point to the bill.

## Regression testing

**Phase I: Completed late July-early August**  
**Phase II: Dress rehearsal of entire tolling system; October-November**  
This last phase simulates day-to-day operations in a one-week duration. The test is repeated until we confirm the system can handle each transaction from the toll point to the bill.

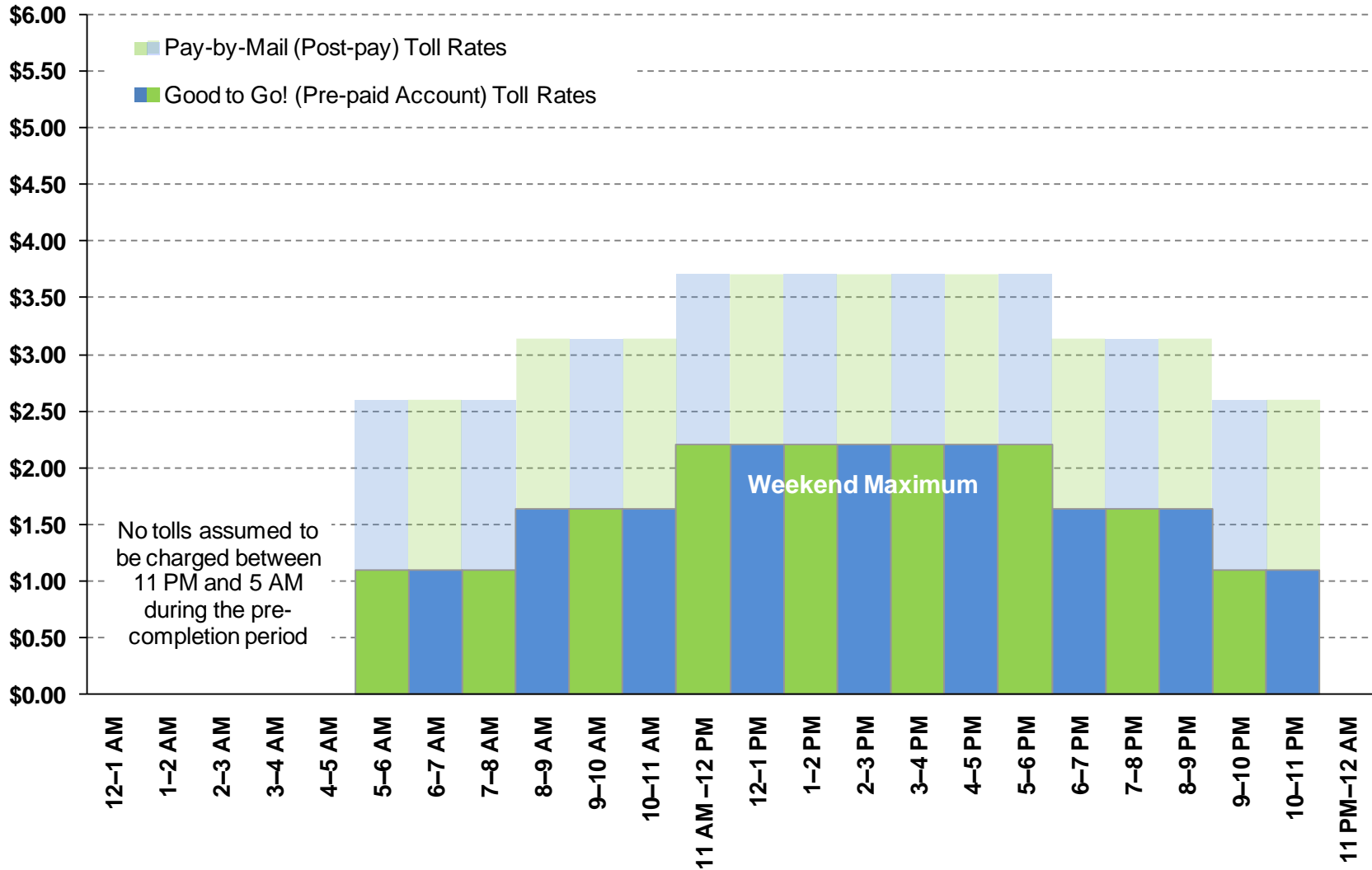


### Toll rates by time of day for weekdays





## Toll rates by time of day for weekends





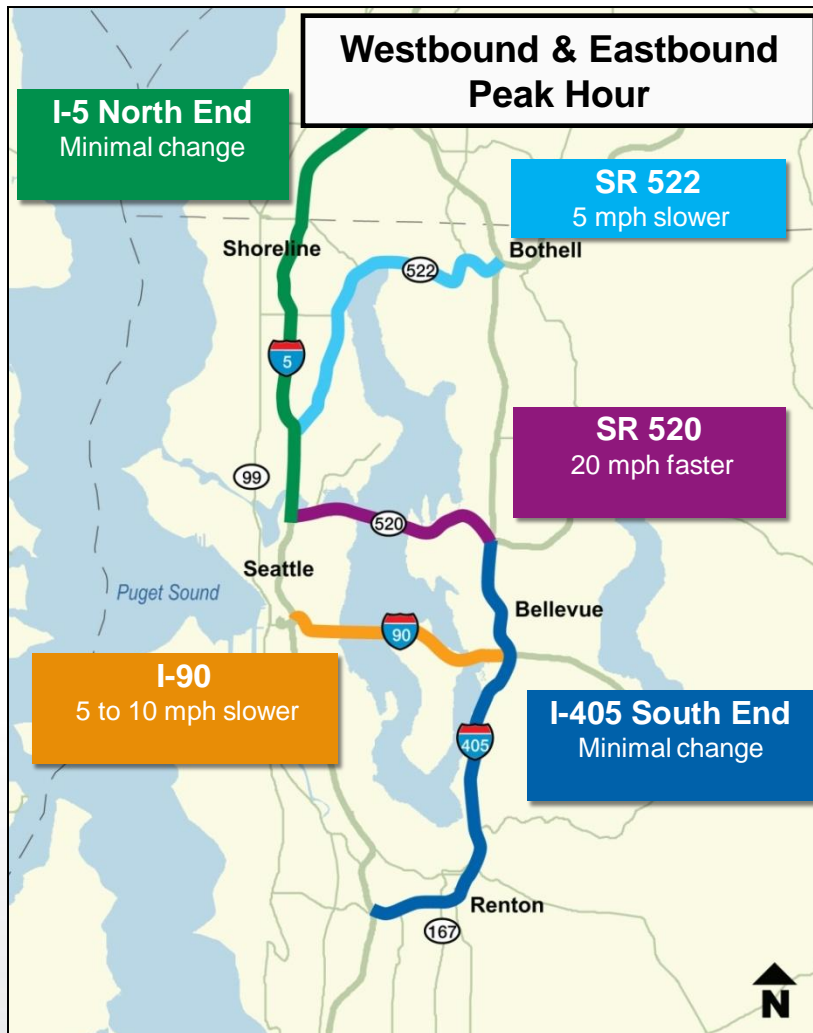


# Exemptions and Rates

- The exemptions for SR 520:
  - Current Tacoma Narrows Bridge exemptions which include: State Patrol, emergency vehicles on a call, and bridge maintenance vehicles
  - Tow trucks authorized by the Washington State Patrol to clear vehicles blocking lanes on the bridge
  - New SR 520 exemption for transit buses and agency sanctioned vanpools
- Two toll rate options: a lower rate for drivers with *Good To Go!* accounts, and a rate for drivers that Pay By Mail



# Traffic Diversion and Monitoring



- Modeled several scenarios
  - Drivers may take alternate routes as a result of tolling SR 520
  - Traffic on alternate routes will increase but not significantly; over time we expect this to lessen
  - Expect a period of adjustment where people modify their travel schedules to take advantage of transit, telecommuting and off-peak travel
- Monitoring traffic pattern changes in the short and long term
- Coordinating monitoring efforts with local jurisdictions



# Where to Find More Information



**SR 520 Tolling: [GoodtoGo520.org](http://GoodtoGo520.org)**



**Transit, Telecommuting and Other Options: [kingcounty.gov/GetYouThere](http://kingcounty.gov/GetYouThere)**



**Vanpool & Carpool Opportunities: [Rideshareonline.com](http://Rideshareonline.com)**



**Park & Ride Locations: [wsdot.wa.gov/Choices/parkride.htm](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Choices/parkride.htm)**



**Smarter Highways: [SmarterHighways.com](http://SmarterHighways.com)**



# Questions/Contact

**Janet Matkin**

Communications Manager  
SR 520 Tolling

206-716-1150

MatkinJ@wsdot.wa.gov

**[www.wsdot.gov/goodtogo/](http://www.wsdot.gov/goodtogo/)**