



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Pam Bissonnette, Interim Public Works Director
Ray Steiger, P.E., Deputy Director Public Works
Date: January 28, 2013
Subject: I-405 Corridor Program update

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council receive a presentation by the WSDOT I-405/SR 167 Corridor Program staff regarding status of the I-405 improvements.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The only north-south freeway alternative to I-5 in the Puget Sound region is made up of sections of Highways in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties. The alternative stretches down I-405 and SR 167 to SR 512 in the south. WSDOT has looked at a range of options for transportation improvements to address the projected increase in population and employment along this corridor. Successful examples are the [I-405 Corridor Master Plan](#) (2002) and the [SR 167 Valley Freeway Plan](#) (2009). Both plans acknowledge the importance of connecting I-405 and SR 167 to form a seamless corridor, and together they form the basis for the I-405/SR 167 Corridor vision.

The I-405/SR 167 Corridor vision includes new highway lanes, improved interchanges, express toll lanes, and expanded transit service including bus rapid transit (BRT) and [expanded vanpool programs](#). Other features, such as the [SR 167 Express Toll Lanes Pilot Project](#) and [SR 167 extension in Pierce County](#), will connect the entire corridor with a system better equipped to manage traffic demands in the future. The first phase of I-405 express toll lanes is currently being constructed in the 17-mile stretch [between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and I-5 in Lynnwood](#), with a planned opening date of late 2015.

NE 6th Street to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lanes Project

Project Description

- Adds capacity between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and SR 522 in Bothell
- Builds noise walls
- Constructs northbound braided ramps at NE 160th Street
- Two lane express toll lane system from NE 6th Street in Bellevue to SR 522
- One lane express toll lane system from SR 522 to I-5 in Lynnwood

Awarded to Flatiron Constructors, Inc. for \$155 million

Project schedule	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bellevue to Lynnwood	█	█	█	█	█

Beginning in January 2013, WSDOT again engaged the I-405/SR 167 Executive Advisory Group (EAG) to gain guidance and reach consensus on a number of critical policy and financing matters related to the I-405 Express Toll Lanes project. EAG members include state and local elected officials, including Kirkland's Mayor McBride, and representatives from federal and regional transit agencies. A 59 slide powerpoint that has good background and information was presented the EAG and the link is included here: [WSDOT January 24 2013 EAG presentation](#) .

The EAG has been advising WSDOT on the I-405 Corridor improvements since 1999. In 2010, members of the EAG signed an interest statement supporting the implementation of express toll lanes on I-405, which would connect with the express toll lanes on SR 167.

The I-405 Bellevue to Lynnwood Widening and Express Toll Lanes project, which began construction in 2012, will add strategic capacity in the north end of the I-405 corridor. This project will add one new lane between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and SR 522 in Bothell and convert the existing carpool lane to an express toll lane. Together, these two lanes will form a dual express toll lane system. Farther north, the existing carpool lane between SR 522 and I-5 will be converted to a single express toll lane.

The Project will complement the widening between NE 85th Street and NE 124th Street ([Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 project](#)) by providing one continuous northbound and southbound lane between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and SR 522 in Bothell. This new lane when combined with the existing carpool lane will operate as a dual express toll lane system from downtown Bellevue to Bothell/Woodinville. Additionally, the existing carpool lane from SR 522 to I-5 will be converted to a single express toll lane or high-occupancy vehicle toll (HOT) lane.

The new express toll lane system will provide 17 miles of additional congestion relief to Bellevue, Kirkland, and Bothell. To further enhance traffic operations in the Bothell area, a northbound "braided" ramp system will be built between the NE 160th Street and SR 522 interchanges. The NE 160th Street to I-405 northbound traffic and the I-405 to SR 522 traffic will be separated from each other to provide more efficient access to I-405 and SR 522. To aid congestion on southbound I-405 in the Bothell area, WSDOT will build wider shoulders between SR 522 and NE 160th Street and between SR 527 and NE 195th Street, allowing buses to use the shoulders during peak periods.

Due to its direct relationship to the City of Kirkland, WSDOT staff will be on hand to provide a brief update on the Project and be available to answer City Council questions.