

December 16, 2009 Transportation Commission meeting

Summary of SR 520 EA Highlights for Transportation Commission Review.

We've been aware of the scope of this project for some time and with a couple of exceptions, the scope has been developed and approved by the Commission and by the City Council. Getting the HOV lane on the inside, redesigning the Lake Washington Boulevard interchange, constructing local and regional trails and adding a direct access point at 108th are all positive changes.

Remaining key issues:

Trail connections. A separate trail connecting 108th Ave NE and the west end of the existing SR 520 trail is not included in the project. It is unclear whether or not the project will construct on street bicycle facilities along Northup Way between 108th Ave NE and the west end of the existing SR 520 trail. It has been Kirkland's position for a long time that a connectivity should be provided by this project.

Effects of tolling. Accurate representation of likely tolls on SR 520 and I-405 and their affects are not included in the analysis. Upgrades in bus service that may come as a part of the Urban Partnership Grant are also not analyzed. This means that the conclusions of the EA are imprecise. The general findings of the EA are probably correct; the project will provide significant travel time savings for transit riders.

Funding and Construction phasing. It is unclear what the priorities are for construction if only partial project funding is secured. That information is somewhat outside the scope of the EA, but it is a question that should be answered because full funding is not likely in the near future.

The EA and related documents are available at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/EastsideEA.htm> Appendix Q is the transportation discipline report.