

# SR 520 Program

## I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project Update

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# SR 520 Progress Keeps Moving West



**SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project**  
 Construction started: 2021  
 Estimated duration: 3 years

**Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project**  
 Construction estimated start: 2024  
 Estimated duration: 6 years

**Montlake Cut Bascule Bridge Project**  
 Unfunded

**Montlake Project**  
 Construction started: 2019  
 Estimated duration: 5 years



# Montlake Project (Current/Finished)



# SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project



# SR 520/I-5 Connection Project: Construction progress



*Aerial photos taken in early August showing flyover ramp construction*



*Looking south down I-5*

# Portage Bay Bridge & Roanoke Lid Project Scope and Benefits



# I-5 Connection Project 2021 LOU



**Letter of Understanding:  
Mercer Corridor Transit Pathway Recommendations in Support of the SR  
520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project**  
May 2021

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), King County Metro Transit (Metro), Sound Transit, and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) are committed to developing and implementing multimodal improvements on the SR 520 corridor to support regional transit planning and mobility. This letter of understanding documents agreement by WSDOT, SDOT, Metro, and Sound Transit on the following key outcomes from the 2018-2019 joint agency transit pathway planning and evaluation effort and subsequent coordination efforts. These efforts identified recommendations and considerations for a transit pathway in South Lake Union using a new transit/HOV connection between Mercer Street and reversible I-5 express lanes.

This letter of understanding, combined with the February 2020 Mercer Corridor Transit Pathway Recommendation Memo (attached), will inform the necessary partner agency budget and approval processes. The agencies' goal is to have transit service in place for the opening of the new connection constructed as part of the SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection Project (SR 520/I-5 Project), anticipated in 2023. WSDOT advertised the project in March 2021, with construction to begin as early as summer 2021.

# Project delays

## Challenges

- Four-month concrete strike
- Tight labor conditions
- Global supply chain disruptions



Project	Estimated Completion	Revised completion
I-5 Connection Project	End of 2023	Spring 2024
Sound Transit East Link	Mid-2023	Spring 2025
King County Metro Route 256	Mid-2023	Spring 2025 (at earliest)



# The upshot

- I-5 Transit/HOV Ramp opening 2030
- More streamlined project delivery across transit agencies .
- Improved access for the Portage Bay Bridge contractor to build Roanoke Lid
- Could potentially accelerate Portage Bay project construction and allow WSDOT to open the ramp connection sooner than 2030
- Public will still benefit from mobility improvements at the Mercer Street on- and off-ramp to and from I-5 in spring 2024

# Questions & Discussion