

I-90 Tolling Update

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Secretary

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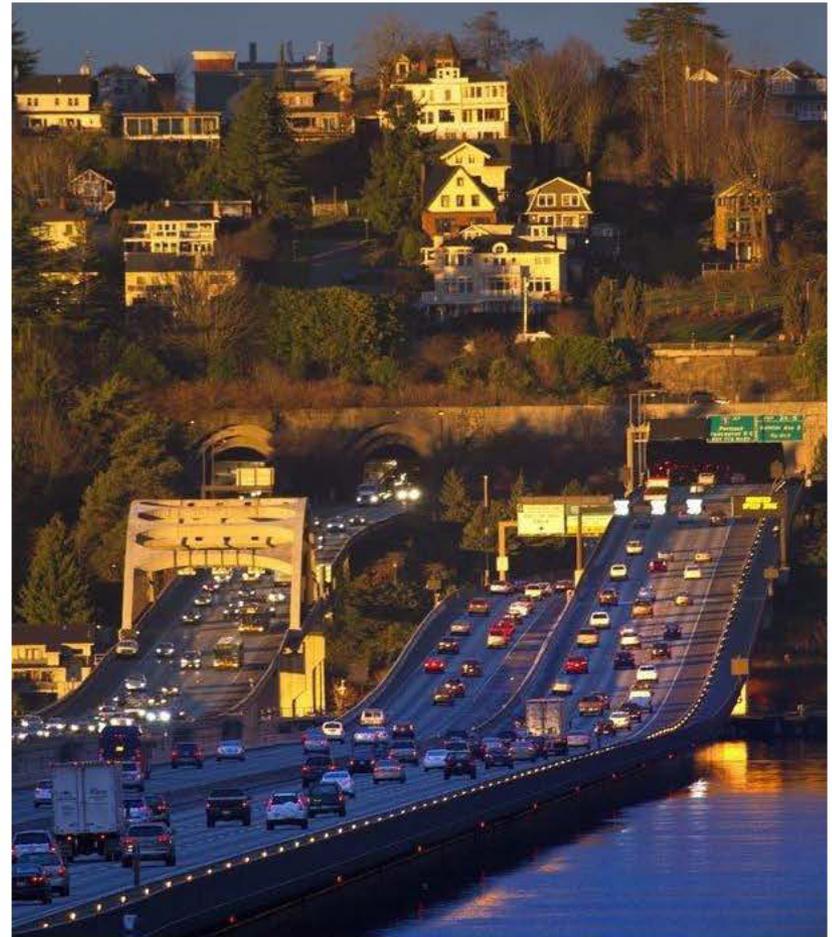
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Washington State Transportation Commission
February 20, 2013

I-90 Tolling Update AGENDA

- Review why we're looking at tolling I-90
- Status of the I-90 Tolling NEPA Environmental Assessment
- What we heard during NEPA Scoping
- Federal authorization and other FHWA issues
- Executive Advisory Group; related regional issues
- Tolling Options being reviewed



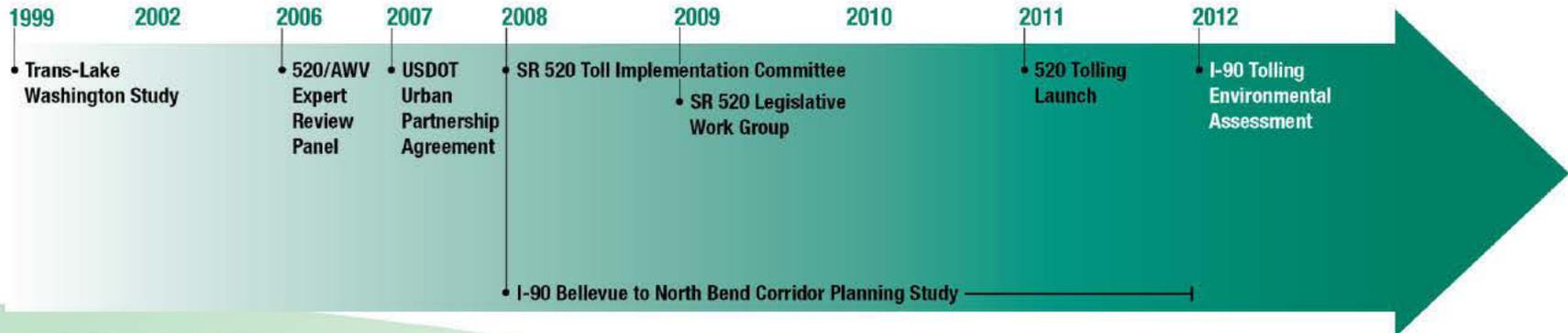
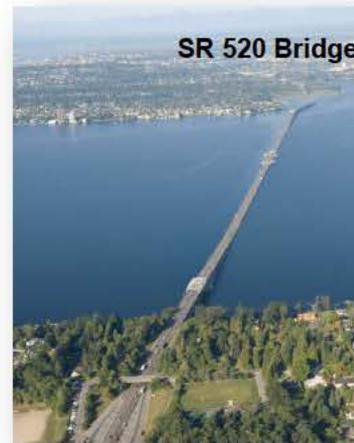
I-90 is part of the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor

- Represents two major east-west “Cross-Lake” travel corridors: I-90 and SR 520.
- Tolling is part of a multi-faceted strategy to improve travel times, provide better trip reliability, and balance traffic between the two bridges.



Tolling 520 and I-90 – under review since 2006

- Tolling I-90 was studied by the 2006 Expert Review Panel and the 2008 520 Toll Implementation Committee.
- Tolling I-90 was recommended by the 2009 Legislative Work Group – “If additional funding cannot fill the gap, general tolling of I-90 starting no sooner than 2014.”
- All directed by the legislature to review toll implementation.
- Complements WSDOT’s I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Planning Study a strategy for transportation improvements east of I-405.



What the Legislature asked us to study

NEPA Environmental Assessment meets legislative intent of ESHB 2109:

“undertake a comprehensive environmental review of tolling Interstate 90 between Interstate 5 and Interstate 405 for the purposes of both managing traffic and providing funding for construction of the unfunded state route number 520 from Interstate 5 to Medina project. The environmental review must include significant outreach to potentially affected communities. The department may consider traffic management options that extend as far east as Issaquah.”

- In January, we kicked off environmental assessment (EA) to review affects of tolling on I-90 between I-5 and I-405.
- Process includes outreach to communities along the corridor and working with local jurisdictions.
- 3 scoping meetings in Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Seattle.



I-90 Tolling EA Scoping Meetings



Tolling Environmental Assessment

What is scoping?

- Opportunity to gather early feedback that will shape the project
- Helps determine range of issues
- WSDOT and FHWA review & consider your input:
 - purpose and need
 - range of concepts
 - potential issues and effects



I-90 Tolling EA Discipline Reports



Tolling Environmental Assessment

What are we planning to study?

Analysts will study the effects of the project alternatives on environmental resources. The EA will consider the relevant areas of the built, natural, and social environment. Areas of particular focus will likely include:

- Transportation
- Land Use/Economic
- Social/Environmental Justice
- Cultural/Historical Resources
- Visual Quality
- Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment

Public Scoping & Comment: Jan 22 – Feb 22, 2013

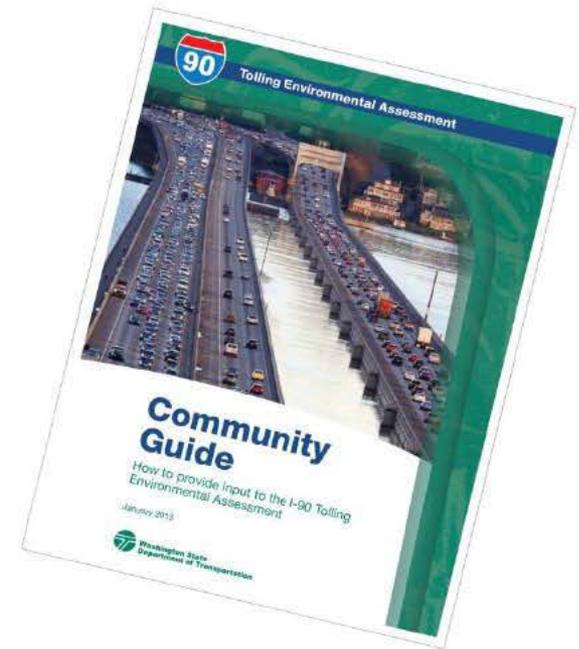
Public Outreach & Education: ongoing

Transportation Analysis: June 2013

Public Hearing: November 2013

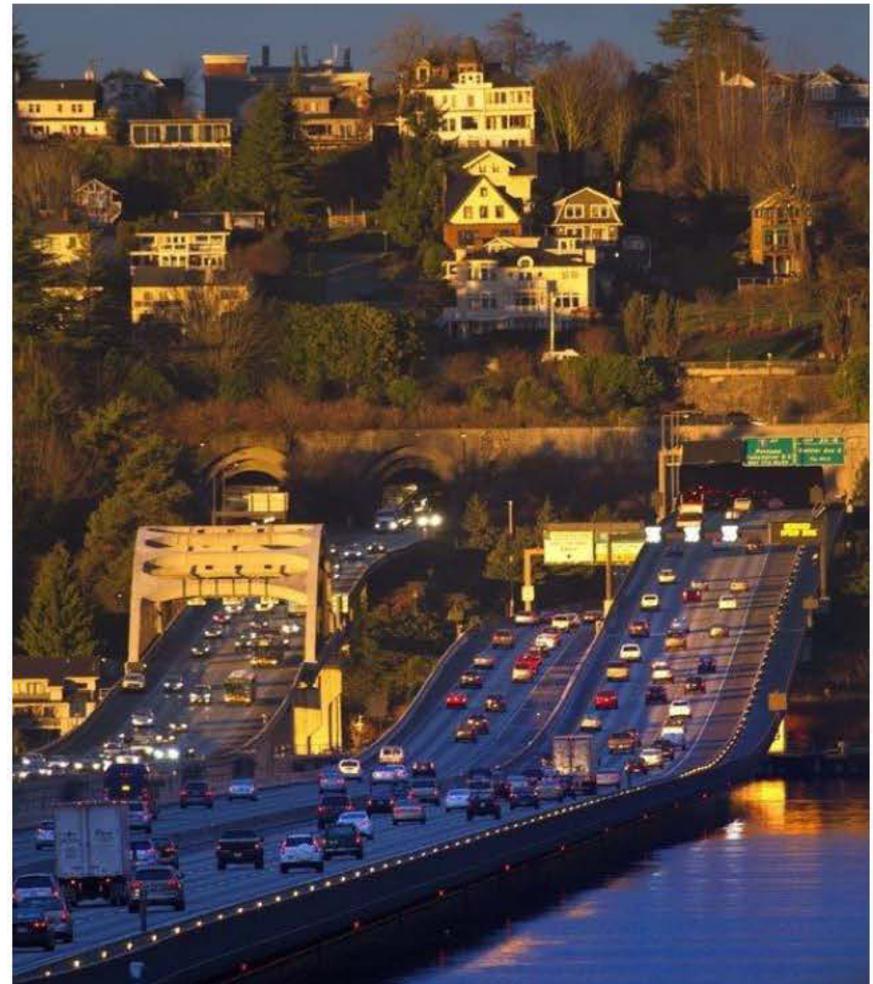
Findings: Early 2014

EA is focused on a review of I-90 Tolling from I-5 to I-405



Public Outreach

- Coordination with elected officials and city staff from the Cross-Lake Washington Corridor and the region.
- Outreach to local communities and social service agencies.
- Coordination with Mercer Island, freight community, and transit agencies.
- Offered EA public scoping meetings and comment period.
- Briefing community and business organizations.
- Holding EA public hearings.



Analyzing travel patterns on Mercer Island

- License Plate Survey
- Travel Demand
- Residential Travel Survey
 - To be mailed to all residents
 - 12 minutes to complete
 - How people travel
- Business Travel Survey
 - 3000 Businesses
 - Share with customers
 - How they travel



What we've heard

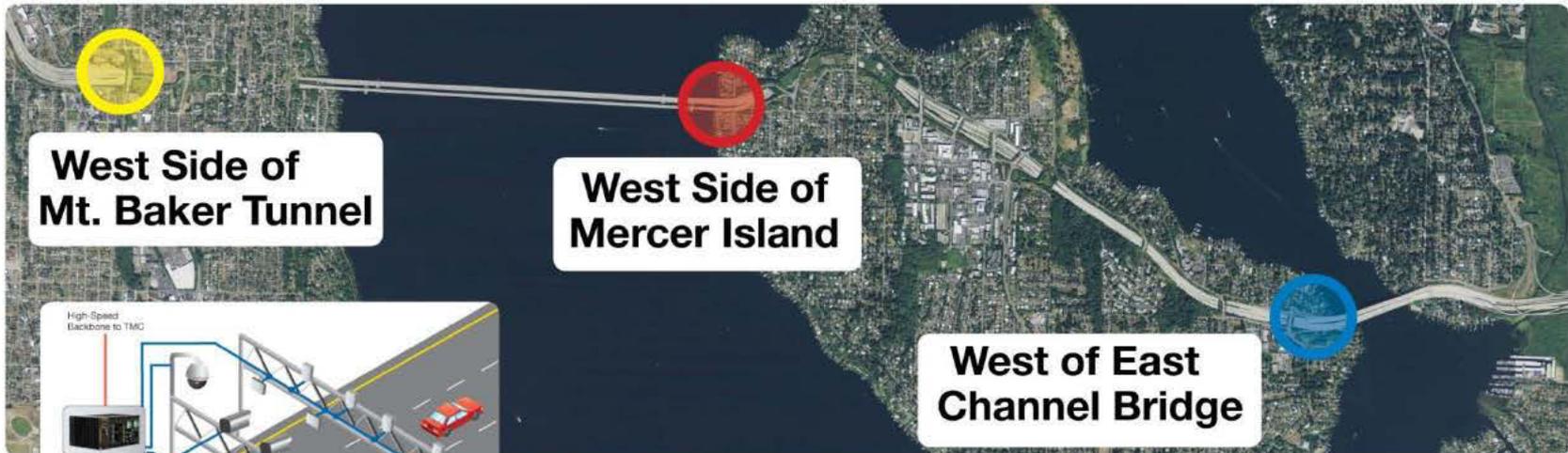


- **Received 1661 scoping comments to date**
 - Emails
 - Hard copy letters
 - Comment forms at scoping meetings
 - Online scoping comment forms
- **General themes**
 - Tolls not fair to Mercer Island residents, businesses, economy
 - Leaves MI residents no free option to get off the Island
 - General opposition to tolls on I-90; public overtaxed
 - Look at other ways to fund SR 520 besides tolling I-90 (ie: MVET)
 - Look at regional tolling rather than just I-90 users
 - Questions about precedent for tolling one facility to pay for another
 - Questions about legality of tolling an Interstate

Tolling Options



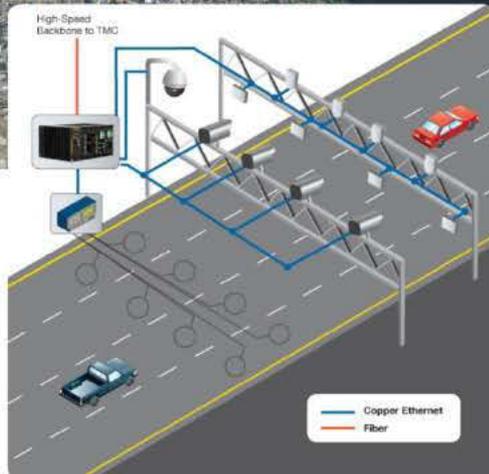
Tolling Locations



**West Side of
Mt. Baker Tunnel**

**West Side of
Mercer Island**

**West of East
Channel Bridge**



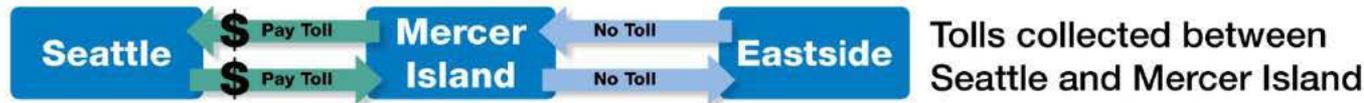
WSDOT will evaluate three different toll gantry locations between I-5 and I-405

Tolling Options



What are the tolling options?

Multiple scenarios will be evaluated against no-action alternatives



Tolls collected between Seattle and Mercer Island



Tolls collected between Bellevue and Mercer Island



Partial tolls collected on trips within a segment (toll collected in both directions). Through trips would pay the full toll.

Federal Authorization and FHWA's Value Pricing Pilot Program

- WSDOT is eligible to toll I-90 under the Federal Highway Administration's Value Pricing Pilot Program (VPPP).
- Washington is one of 15 states part of the VPPP.
- Under this program, excess revenue over and above debt service and operations and maintenance costs for the I-90 tolling system would be available to help fund the SR 520 program.
- Under the VPPP, FHWA requires the completion of a formal tolling agreement between the two agencies prior to the commencement of tolling operations.
- Elizabeth River Tunnels Project in VA is also part of the VPPP, tolling an Interstate, and tolling one facility to help fund another parallel facility in the same corridor.

Questions?

For more information about tolling in Washington,
please contact:

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