

# SR 520 Portage Bay Bridge & Roanoke Lid

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Mayor

**Samuel Assefa**  
Director, OPCD

**Ben de Rubertis**, Chair

**Brianna Holan**, Vice Chair

**Justin Clark**

**Rikerrious Geter**

**Laura Haddad**

**Mark Johnson**

**Rick Krochalis**

**Amalia Leighton**

**Vinita Sidhu**

**Elaine Wine**

**Michael Jenkins**  
Director

**Valerie Kinast**  
Strategic Advisor

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Planner

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## Commissioners Present

Ben de Rubertis, Chair  
Brianna Holan, Vice Chair  
Rikerrious Geter  
Laura Haddad  
Mark Johnson

## Commissioners Excused

Justin Clark  
Rick Krochalis

## Non Voting Commissioners Present

Amalia Leighton  
Vinita Sidhu  
Elaine Wine

## Project Description

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is redeveloping the Seattle segment of the State Route (SR) 520 corridor between I-5 and Lake Washington. The redevelopment will include new bridges that meet current seismic standards, HOV capacity, updated roadways, new pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improved transit connections, open spaces, and enhanced non-motorized connections. The project is being developed in several phases. The Seattle Design Commission (SDC) is providing guidance to WSDOT and the SR 520 team on urban design concepts for the Roanoke Lid and Portage Bay Bridge, which will be constructed following the awards of a design-build contract. The proposed concepts will include design elements and principles that will be embedded in WSDOT's request for proposals (RFP) which will be used to receive bids from design-build project teams.

## Meeting Summary

This was the SDC's first briefing of the SR 520 – Roanoke Lid and Portage Bay Bridge project design. The purpose of this meeting was to review the proposed concept design for the project. After the presentation and discussion, the SDC provided a summary of recommendations for the project team to consider. The SDC will review the project again at a future date. The SDC is also holding discussions with the project team in subcommittee meetings between full SDC meetings.

## Recusals and Disclosures

**Brianna Holan** disclosed that she had previously worked on the project while working for LMN Architects

**June 6, 2019**

2:30 - 4:00 pm

**Type**

Major Project

**Phase**

Briefing

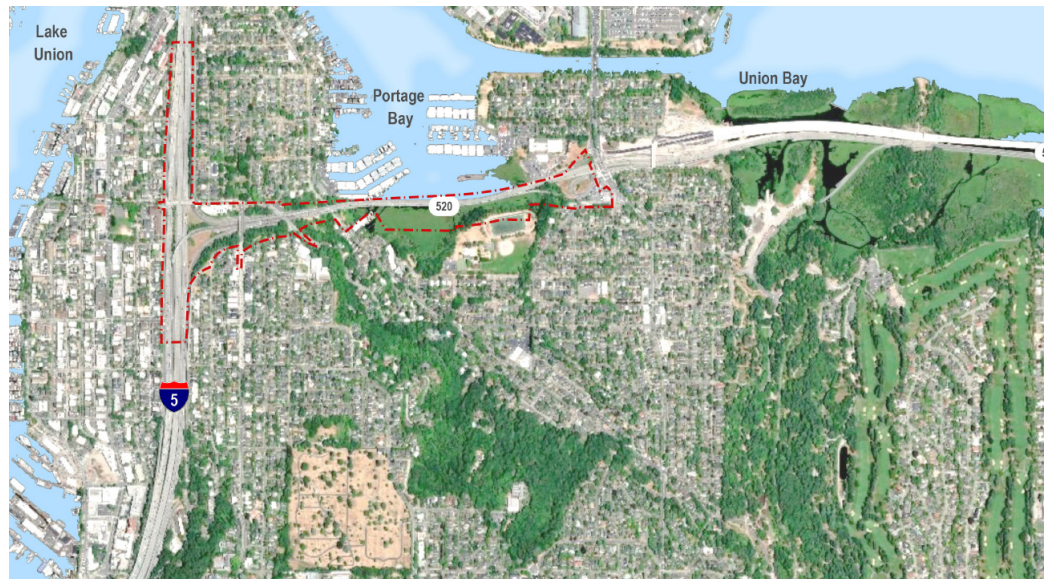
**Previous Reviews**None**Presenters**Michael Fitzpatrick  
SR 520 Design TeamMatt Gurrad  
SR 520 Design TeamOsama Quotah  
SR 520 Design TeamDawn Yankauskas  
WSDOT**Attendees**Adam Amrhein  
LMN ArchitectsJoe Basile  
WSDOTLyle Bicknell  
OPCDOmar Jepperson  
WSDOTVictoria Morris  
WSDOTAmanda Tse  
SDOT

Figure 1: Project location

**Summary of Presentation**

Dawn Yankauskas, SR 520 Westside Engineering Manager, and Michael Fitzpatrick, Matt Gurrad, and Osama Quotah, of the SR 520 Design Team presented the design concept for the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid project. The presentation included an update on the overall process, vision, and overview for the SR 520 'Rest of the West' project. The team then presented the context and design approach for the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid projects (*see figure 1*) and how it is integrated within the overall SR 520 'Rest of the West' project.

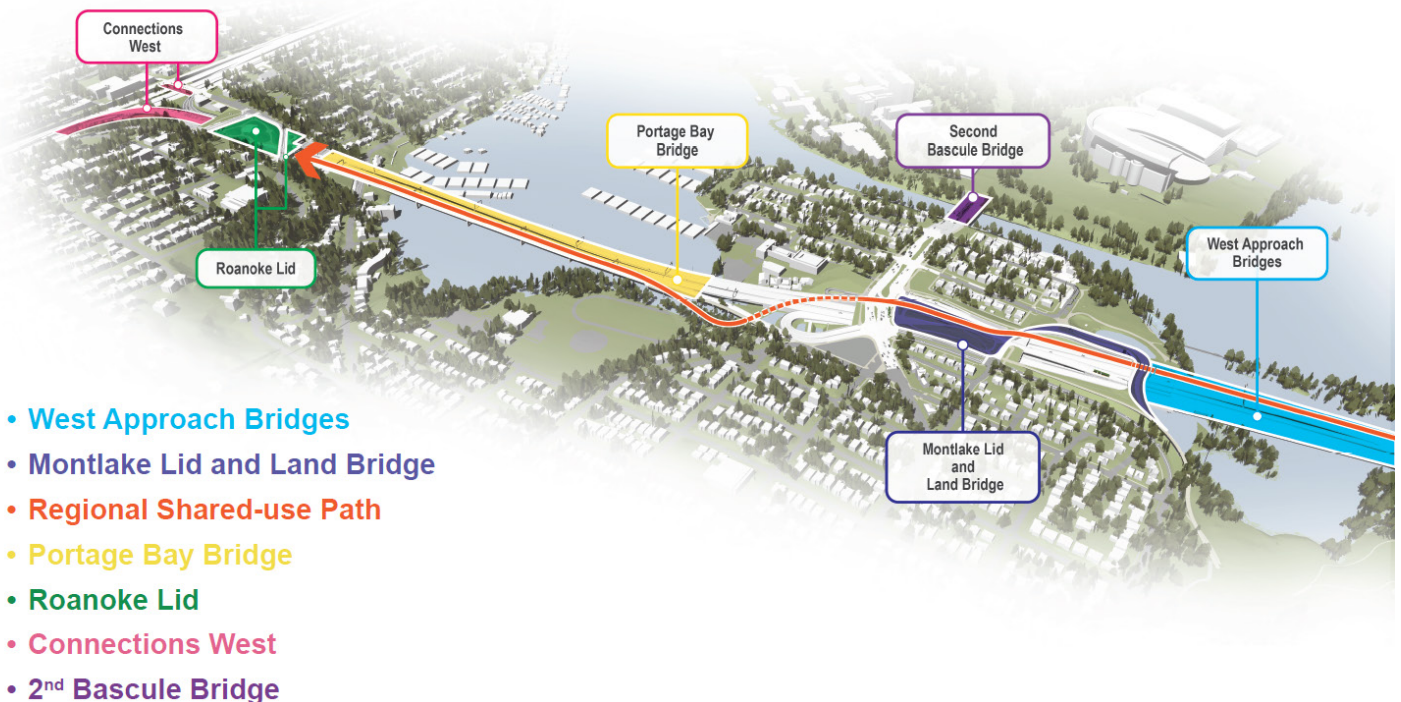
The presentation then focused on the continued development for the Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid project. The project will include elements of continuity, which are design elements that will be included throughout the Rest of the West project. Elements of continuity are (*see figure 2*):

- walls and finishes
- signage
- railing
- lighting
- bicycle and pedestrian facility treatments.

The project will also include elements of distinction, which are design elements and features that are unique to specific areas. Elements of distinction will be located in the following project areas (*see figure 2*):

- The East connections focus on bike and pedestrian connections along the RSUP and Bill Dawson Trail between Montlake Blvd and Portage Bay Bridge and include areas such as the Bill Dawson Underbridge, a pedestrian and cyclist underpass located below the SR 520.
- The Portage Bay Bridge area includes elements such as RSUP, HOV lanes, and columns and support as well as lighting, signage, and railing design.
- The Roanoke Lid area is located between Roanoke St, 10th Ave E, and Delmar Ave E and includes open space and viewpoints into the open space and surrounding area as well as direct connections to the RSUP, city bicycle facilities, and surrounding neighborhoods.
- The West connections include pedestrian and bicycle connectivity crossing Interstate 5 (I-5) along E Roanoke St as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities crossing under 10th Ave E.

- Walls and Finishes
- Signing
- Railing and Fall Protection
- Lighting
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Treatments



- West Approach Bridges
- Montlake Lid and Land Bridge
- Regional Shared-use Path
- Portage Bay Bridge
- Roanoke Lid
- Connections West
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bascule Bridge

Figure 2: Elements of continuity (top) and elements of distinction (bottom)

### Agency Comments

None

### Public Comments

None

### Summary of Discussion

The Commission organized its discussion around the following issues:

- Portage Bay Bridge
- Roanoke Lid

#### *Portage Bay Bridge*

The SDC commended the project team for the initial Portage Bay Bridge design concept. Specifically, commissioners appreciated the proposed height of the bridge, which will provide an improvement for the

trails and pathways located below. The Commission highlighted several opportunities that can be achieved through the replacement of the Portage Bay Bridge. The SDC recommended the team continue to consider the elegance and lightness of the bridge as the design continues to develop. The SDC then discussed how the bridge will be seen and experienced from varying distances and locations. The commission encouraged the project team to consider the design of the bridge, as well as the user experience, from different locations near, on, and below the bridge. Commissioners were especially interested in understanding how users will interact and experience specific elements such as the columns as well as understanding how people will experience the bridge from the water below. Several commissioners recommended the team explore ecological opportunities in the design of the portion of the bridge columns that are submerged beneath the water. The SDC then expressed concern with the amount of signage on the bridge deck and its relationship to the overall design on the bridge deck. Commissioners recommended the project team consider the amount of signage that is actually needed and then to provide renderings that are reflective of the amount of signage proposed.

The SDC expressed concern with the proposed design of the RSUP where it connects to the Roanoke lid. Commissioners recommended the project team consider avoiding switchbacks and encouraged the team to consider an alternative solution or alternative location for the RSUP to connect from the bridge that is more intuitive for users.

#### *Roanoke Lid*

The SDC commended the project team for the Roanoke Lid design proposal. Commissioners agreed that the project team was setting up a successful design concept and strongly recommended they focus on developing a few programmatic elements rather than attempting to design several small elements that can negatively impact the overall function of the open space. Commissioners then recommended the project team continue to develop the lid to serve as a destination, providing users with flexible open space rather than attempting to prescribe specific active elements. The SDC then acknowledged that the view points providing views into the open space as well as the surrounding area will be a major destination. The SDC discussed community involvement in the design and identification of program elements. Commissioners then recommended the project team continue to listen to the community when thinking about potential elements for the open space. The SDC strongly recommended that the project team specify tree canopy goals for the lid when writing the RFP.

The SDC strongly recommended the project team continue to think about connectivity between the lid and surrounding local and regional trails. Commissioners encouraged the project team to consider connectivity when writing the RFP.

### **Action**

The Commission thanked the project team for their presentation of the design for the SR 520 Roanoke Lid and Portage Bay Bridge project. The SDC provided the following recommendations that should be addressed as the design continues to develop:

#### *Portage Bay Bridge*

1. Increase the lightness and elegance of the bridge.
2. Consider the experience of the bridge from the water.
3. In addition to considering the pedestrian interaction with sculpted concrete work, consider the experience from the water.
4. Explore adding ecological value with the sculpting of the columns in the water.
5. Consider the views of the columns not just from far away but also from closer, such as 10 ft away.
6. Be realistic when rendering and considering the amount of signage that will be needed for the project.
7. Avoid switchbacks and explore peeling the RSUP off of the mainline of the bridge where it will result in an elegant solution.

#### *Roanoke Lid*

1. Continue to develop just a few larger programmatic moments rather than many small ones with the lid space.
2. Look to other signature spaces for ideas that draw people to a destination without programming them with active uses.

3. The views are the biggest draw, but listen carefully to the community to identify other attractions that are passive.
4. Consider having the trail run along the north side of the bridge and use the lid to accommodate grade.
5. Be sure that there is intentionality with where the trail connects into the City bike facility network.