

From : Mike Moedritzer [mailto:mikem@thl-arch.com]
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To: SR 520 Bridge SDEIS
Subject: 520 Bridge replacement

I-254-001

I whole-heartedly support putting light rail on the new bridge. At least plan for accommodating it in the future with minimal cost and disruption. It's crazy to build something like this that will last many generations and not include light rail. The way the world is going, single-occupancy vehicles will be dinosaurs in a few years. The planning for this bridge replacement should have been flexible enough to adapt to a changing world, and we've had a boatload of change in the world in the last 10 years.

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The SR 520, I-5 to Medina project would complete the HOV lane system in the corridor, improving reliability and efficiency for transit and carpools, but would not add general-purpose lanes. Thus, the project is aligned with improving the overall efficiency of the transportation system by creating incentives for people to choose an alternative to driving alone. Section 2.4 in the Final EIS explains why initial implementation of light rail transit on SR 520 is not planned. Section 2.4 also explains how the SR 520, I-5 to Medina project can accommodate future high capacity transit, such as proposed bus rapid transit or potential future light rail. While WSDOT believed that the design of the SR 520, I-5 to Medina project already accommodated potential future light rail, the agency worked with the City of Seattle and Sound Transit to identify changes that would enhance the corridor's rail compatibility. The Preferred Alternative reflects these design changes and allows for two potential future rail options.