

From: nsphilip@gmail.com [mailto:nsphilip@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:08 PM
To: SR 520 Bridge SDEIS
Subject: SR-520 needs built-in rail technology for future upgrades

I-159-001 |

Install rail now to prevent costly renovation in the future.

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Section 2.4 in the Final EIS explains why initial implementation of light rail transit on SR 520 is not planned. 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 as discussed in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS. Both approaches would require the addition of supplemental floating bridge pontoons to support the additional weight of light rail, should the regional decision to add rail be made and funded. Such a decision would need to be planned and programmed by regional land use and transit agencies, funded by a public vote, and evaluated in its own environmental analysis.