

I-183-001

VERBAL COMMENT #3

MEGAN JOHNSON: My concern is tolling. My husband has a small construction company. His trucks are going back and forth constantly on 520. Our concern is that he managed to — he still is in business, with everything that's going on; and now his concern is the toll for every truck that's going back and forth, because his company is on the Eastside and most of his work is in Seattle. The tolling, if he has to be charged every time a truck goes through, will put him out of business.

So is there any way you can, if you have a company where you have trucks going back and forth, whether it's construction, whatever, do they have, have they thought about it and are they going to maybe have it so if they can prove that he does have this company and that he is working in Seattle all the time, that they're not going to get charged for each truck that goes back and forth? There's 14 trucks. That's our concern, because it will put him out of business or, you know, or at least he'll have to let go some employees, which defeats the whole purpose of trying to get our economy going. Like I said, he's still here, and we just want him to stay.

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While the SR 520, I-5 to Medina project is proposing tolls on the SR 520 corridor in Washington State, the tolling authority is the Washington State Transportation Commission, who sets the toll rates, fees, and the kinds of exemptions inquired about in the comment. The Washington State Transportation Commission will be considering exemptions in conjunction with the toll rate setting process. WSDOT has recommended that registered vanpools and transit be exempted from paying tolls on the SR 520 bridge, along with emergency response vehicles such as police, fire and ambulances on bona-fide emergencies, Washington State Patrol vehicles assigned to the bridge, and bridge maintenance vehicles.

The SR 520 Bridge Toll Proposal was released in November 2010, and the Transportation Commission solicited comments on the proposal through January 5, 2011. Chapter 1 of the Final EIS summarizes the tolling proposal for the SR 520 corridor. For a full review of the SR 520 Bridge Toll Proposal, and for the most up to date information on the status of tolling in the SR 520 corridor, follow this weblink <http://www.wstc.wa.gov/HighwayTolling/SR520Bridge.htm>.