

Seattle, WA

SR 520 Design Enhancement Plan and Decision-Making



Nelson\Nygaard was retained by the City of Seattle to assist them in working collaboratively with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to refine the design of proposed freeway, bridge and interchange segments to be replaced as part of the SR 520 retrofit project. The project is located in a very urban and environmentally constrained area. The City Council and the Mayor each had specific areas of interest. Desired outcomes for the City Council included:

- Maximizing transit usage and connectivity, and prioritizing transit through the area
- Facilitating acceptable peak and off-peak traffic operations on SR 520 and at the SR 520 / Montlake Boulevard interchange
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation through the study area and within adjacent neighborhoods
- Minimizing effects of the SR 520 Project on adjacent Seattle neighborhoods and the Washington Park Arboretum
- Enhancing the physical environment for the health and benefit of neighborhood residents

For the Mayor's office the desired outcomes were very specific: to ensure that the SR 520 project is designed and built from the outset to reasonably accommodate light rail and reduce the impact of the new facility.

Nelson\Nygaard worked collaboratively with staff from the Seattle Department of Transportation (S-DOT) and WSDOT's project team to refine project elements to satisfy both the City and State goals for the project. A key outcome of this process was a modified design for the SR 520/Montlake Boulevard interchange that incorporated urban street design standards into the freeway redesign.

Nelson\Nygaard remains under retainer to the City with follow-on work to further refine the design for compatibility with an urban environment and the desired outcomes in collaboration with the City, WSDOT, King County Metro, Sound Transit, the University of Washington, and the Washington Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee.



Project Duration: 2010–Current

Total Budget: \$250,000

For more information:

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