



## Progress Update on Decommissioning of the old SR 520 floating bridge

July 15, 2016

With the new SR 520 floating bridge open to traffic, crews are now working to remove the old, structurally vulnerable floating bridge from Lake Washington before storm season begins later this year. Below is a summary of the bridge-decommissioning work that has already been completed or is underway, as of July 15, 2016:

- The two steel trusses on the east and west ends have been removed. This means that the floating structure is not connected to the approach bridges, and is held in place only by its aged cables and anchors.
- Tension has been released on the existing internal steel cables (inside the pontoons) that help connect the pontoons to each other.
- Pontoons A and B, plus C and D have already been separated from the rest of the bridge — which required removing the bolts between the pontoons, cutting the anchor cables, and physically separating them from their adjoining pontoons. These separated pontoons are in a staging area and will have their columns and remaining superstructure removed before the pontoons are transported through the Ballard Locks.
- Pontoon E has been separated from pontoon F and is moored at the west side staging area. It is scheduled to be towed from Lake Washington within the next two weeks, then its new owner will take possession of it. The majority of pontoons will be removed from the lake in this manner: separated from the bridge, prepared for tow, and directly towed out through the Locks.
- Large access ports have been cut on the top of pontoons to allow workers to reach interior cells within the pontoons in preparation to separate each pontoon from its adjoining pontoon. While these ports are temporary, they are not stormproof. It is not advisable to leave pontoons with temporary access ports on the lake through a storm season.
- On the east approach, we are currently saw-cutting the girders off the structure and removing the cross-members that keep the girders in place. This is the last span over water on the east side of the lake, and the remainder of this work needs to be completed before we can construct the final noise walls on the south side of the new bridge in Medina.