



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Thirteenth District

915 Second Avenue, Rm 3510  
Seattle WA 98174-1067  
Staff Symbol: dpw-Bridges  
Phone: (206) 220-7282  
Email: Steve.M.Fischer3@uscg.mil

20 February 2023

## PUBLIC NOTICE 2-23

All interested parties are herein notified that the Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated 2 December 2022 from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for approval of location and plans for the replacement of a highway bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Portage Bay, mile 0.9, on State Route (SR) 520 between Seattle and Medina, King County, Washington.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** This is a design-build project that will replace the existing Portage Bay Bridge, Bridge No. 520/3 with a wider and higher structure. The proposed Portage Bay Bridge will consist of two independent fixed-span bridges, one carrying eastbound traffic (south structure) and one carrying westbound traffic (north structure). The bridge will be supported by larger but fewer concrete columns, with greater span lengths, than the existing bridge. The proposed Portage Bay Bridge will have two general-purpose lanes and an HOV lane in each direction, plus a westbound managed shoulder. A new 14-foot-wide shared-use path would be integrated on the south side of the south bridge structure. The bridge design would be a box girder design with an approximately 13- to 20-foot-wide gap added between the north and south structures. Construction will include temporary falsework at the east end of the bridge and temporary work bridges that span Portage Bay. The temporary work bridges will reduce the horizontal and vertical clearance while in place. The temporary work bridges and falsework will be removed after the permanent structure is completed. The existing bridge will be removed in its entirety if feasible, or removed to at least 3 feet below the mudline.

**MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:** The proposed replacement bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are an increase from current clearances over this section of the waterway at or near this mile.

	Existing	Temporary	Proposed
Vertical	30.8 ft	10 ft	38.62 ft
Horizontal	100 ft	22 ft	201 ft

Datum: NAVD 1988

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Federal Highway Administration is the lead Federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Federal Highway Administration is acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard for all environmental control laws. An Environmental

Impact Statement was issued in 26 May 2011 and reevaluated in February 2021. FHWA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on 4 August 2011, pursuant to NEPA, as amended. Documents are available for review online ([SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)) or at the above address, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project was originally issued by the Washington Department of Ecology on 15 February 2012 and the certification was amended on 28 September 2020. The project will result in impacts to environmentally critical areas, including 2.51 acres of temporary and 6.96 acres of permanent impacts to aquatic habitat, and 1.69 square acres of temporary and 1.68 square acres of permanent impacts to wetlands and buffers. The project will provide compensatory mitigation to offset effects on these resources, as required by local, state, and federal regulations. Compensatory mitigation for these unavoidable project impacts will be provided at three mitigation sites that have been proactively completed, including the Union Bay Natural Area, Bear Creek, and South Lake Washington sites.

The bridge is located in the floodplain; however, per FEMA maps, this bridge is in an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard. The elevation of the low member of the navigation span is 57.34 feet. Elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum.

The decision as to whether to grant approval of the location and plans for the proposed action rests primarily upon the effect it has on navigation.

#### **SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

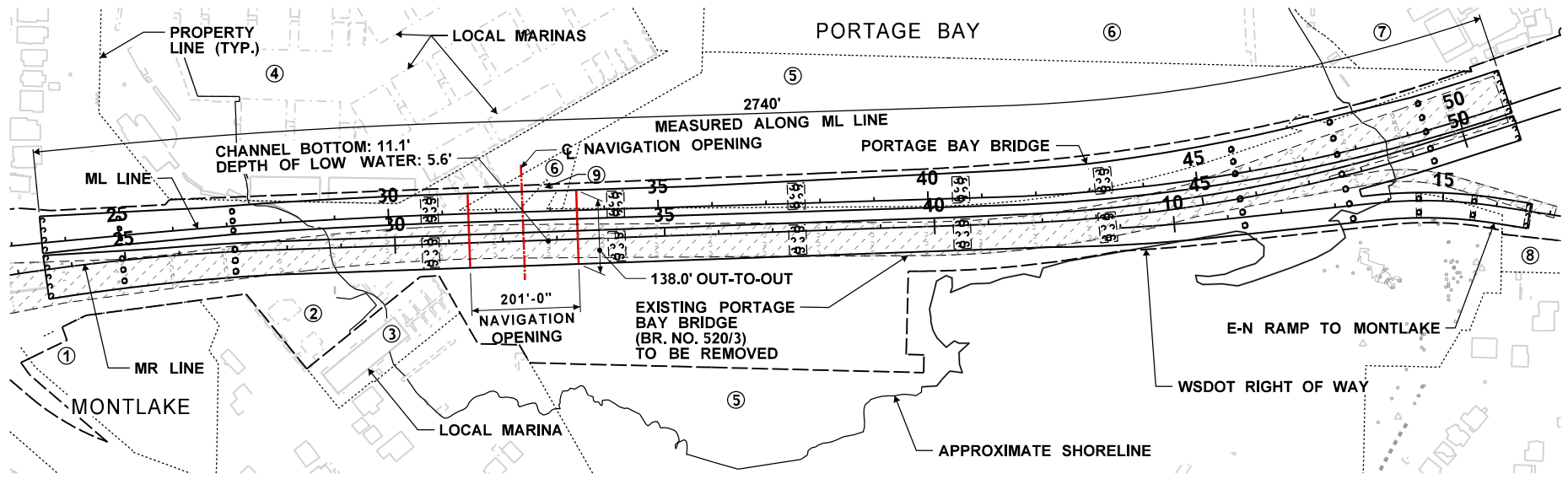
Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to navigation.

We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, environmental justice, etc. to the Federal Highway Administration. Comments will be received for the record via D13-SMB-D13-BRIDGES@uscg.mil through 24 March 2023

Map of location and plans attached.

Steve Fischer  
Bridge Administrator  
By direction of the Commander  
Thirteenth Coast Guard District





**PARCEL OWNERS:**

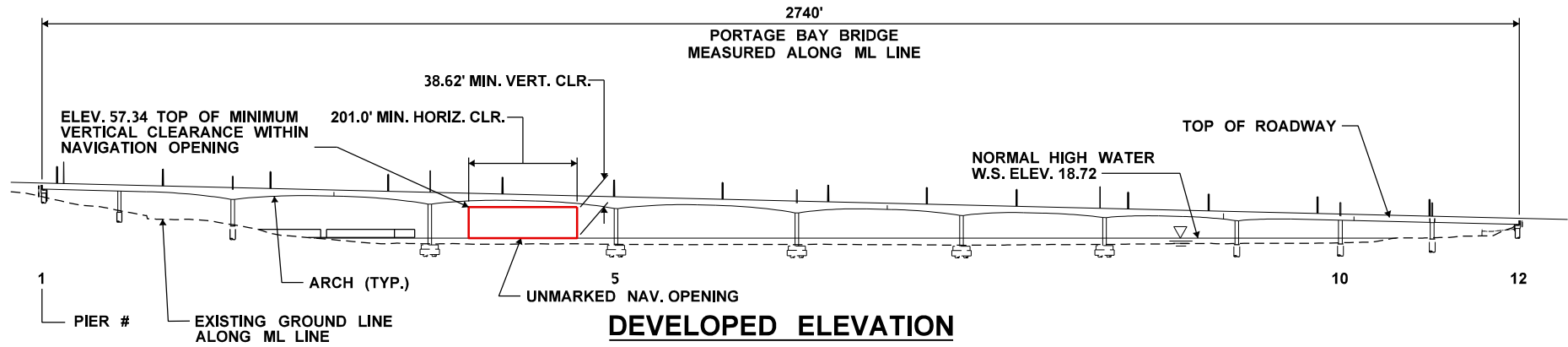
- ① SEATTLE PREP
- ② WSDOT
- ③ PORTAGE BAYSHORE CONDOMINIUMS
- ④ QUEEN CITY YACHT CLUB
- ⑤ SEATTLE PARKS
- ⑥ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)
- ⑦ NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
- ⑧ JOHNSON
- ⑨ MAYER

**PLAN**

**LEGEND**

EXISTING PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE

**NOTE:**  
FEMA ZONE X AREA DETERMINED TO BE OUTSIDE THE 0.2% CHANCE FLOODPLAIN. NO 100-YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION IDENTIFIED.

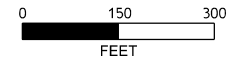


**DEVELOPED ELEVATION**

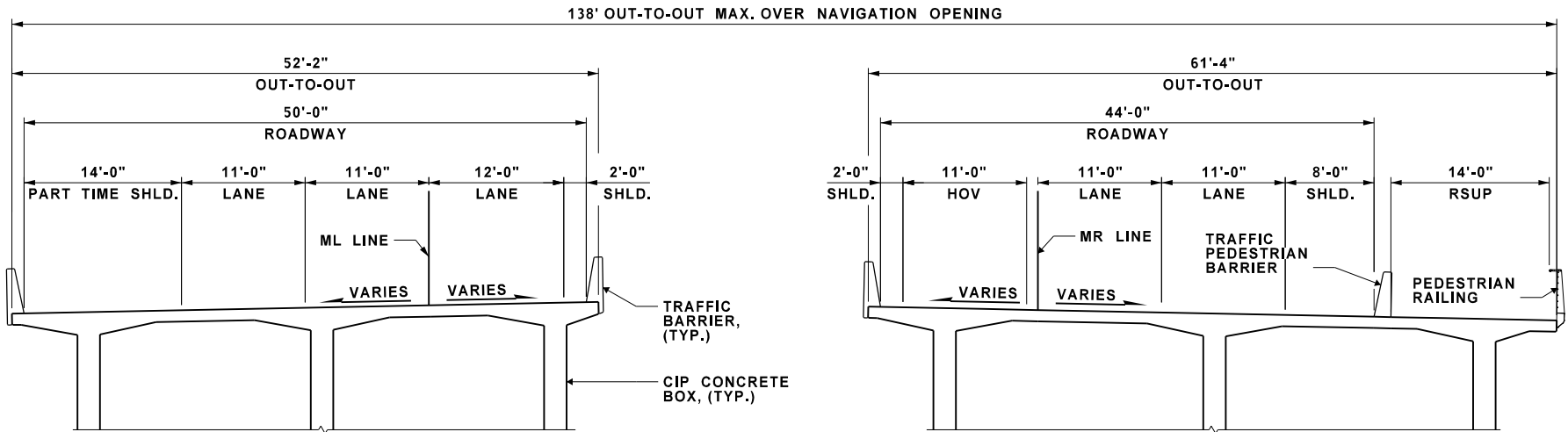
**DATUM**  
NAVD 1988



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT



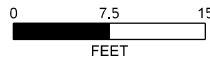
<b>WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	
PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE, BRIDGE NO. 520/3 PORTAGE BAY OF LAKE UNION, MILE 0.9 SEATTLE & MEDINA KING COUNTY STATE OF WASHINGTON	
APPLICATION BY: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS: HDR INC., PARAMETRIX AND RHC ENGINEERING INC. ROUTE: SR 520	DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023
<b>PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE LAYOUT FOR COAST GUARD PERMIT</b>	
SHEET 2 OF 4 SHEETS	



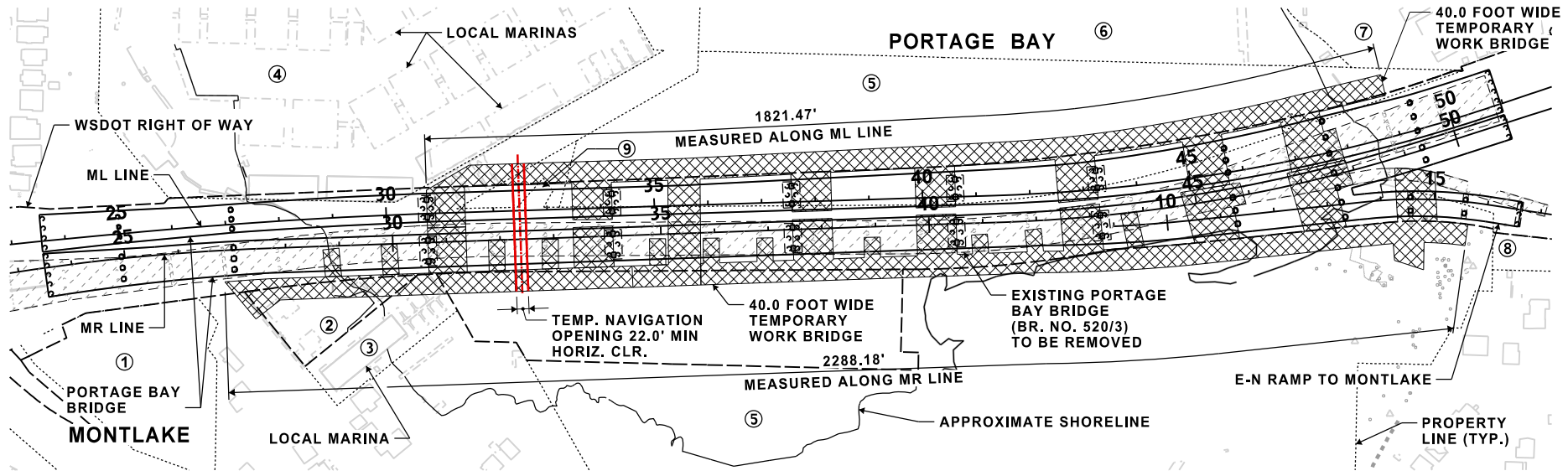
**TYPICAL SECTION - OVER NAVIGATION OPENING**



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT



<b>WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	
PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE, BRIDGE NO. 520/3 PORTAGE BAY OF LAKE UNION, MILE 0.9 SEATTLE & MEDINA KING COUNTY STATE OF WASHINGTON	
APPLICATION BY: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS: HDR INC., PARAMETRIX AND RHC ENGINEERING INC. ROUTE: SR 520	DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023
<b>TYPICAL DECK SECTION FOR COAST GUARD PERMIT</b>	
SHEET 3 OF 4 SHEETS	



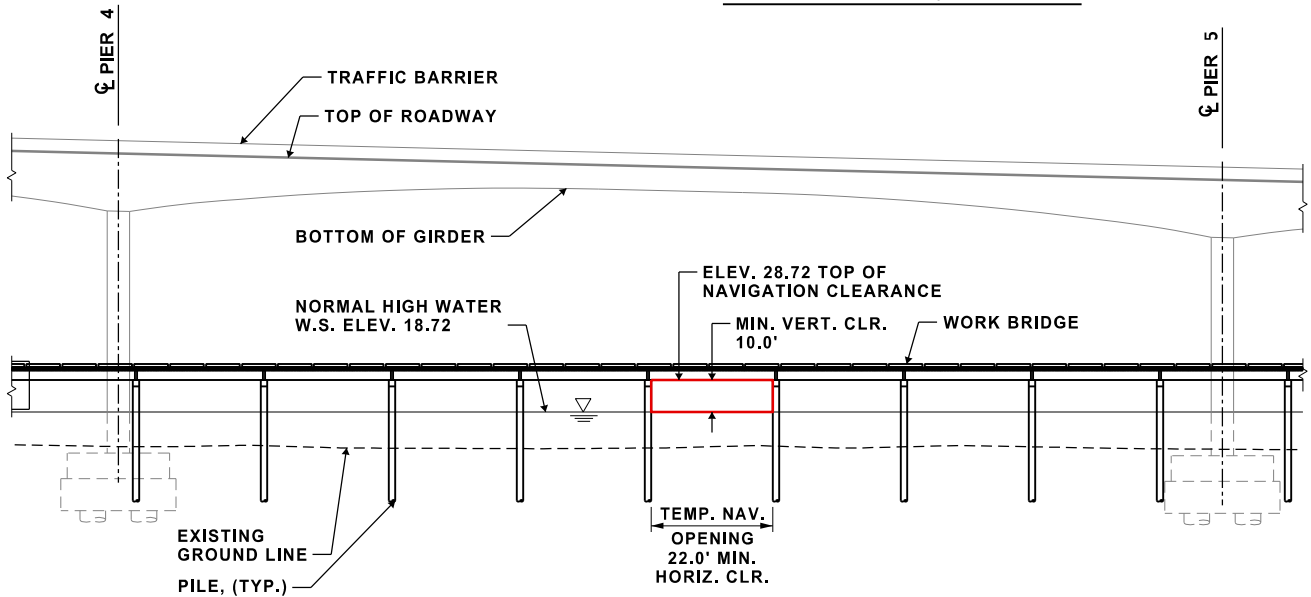
**WORK BRIDGE PLAN**

**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE
- POTENTIAL AREA OF WORK BRIDGE
- EXISTING PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE

**PARCEL OWNERS:**

- ① SEATTLE PREP
- ② WSDOT
- ③ PORTAGE BAYSHORE CONDINIUMS
- ④ QUEEN CITY YACHT CLUB
- ⑤ SEATTLE PARKS
- ⑥ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)
- ⑦ NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
- ⑧ JOHNSON
- ⑨ MAYER



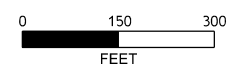
**DEVELOPED ELEVATION**

**DATUM**

NAVD 1988



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT



<b>WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	
PORTAGE BAY BRIDGE, BRIDGE NO. 520/3 PORTAGE BAY OF LAKE UNION, MILE 0.9 SEATTLE & MEDINA KING COUNTY STATE OF WASHINGTON	
APPLICATION BY: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	SHEET 4
CONSULTANTS: HDR INC., PARAMETRIX AND RHC ENGINEERING INC.	OF 4
ROUTE: SR 520	DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023
<b>WORK ACCESS FOR COAST GUARD PERMIT</b>	
SHEETS 4	