

first 4 local news for seattle, tacoma, and the pacific northwest

**NEWS / home**

- home
- more news
- special reports
- buyer beware
- your money
- herb weisbaum
- sports
- ken schram
- people helper
- boeing news
- microsoft news
- wildfires
- search news

**KOMO TV**

- HDTV IS FREE!
- HDTV ON CABLE
- schedule
- jobs
- people

**KOMO RADIO**

- contests
- events
- mariners
- jobs
- people
- advertise

**WEATHER****TRAFFIC****HOTLINKS****HEALTHWATCH****ASK KOMO****EMAIL KOMO****NW****AFTERNOON****SITE MAP****FEATURES**

- tami michaels
- simple solutions
- in the garden
- sea-tac solutions
- for kids' sake
- eric's little heroes
- cooking with todd
- what's happening
- scholarship

**New 520 Bridge Plans Clear A Big Hurdle**

January 12, 2004

By Molly Shen

ON LAKE WASHINGTON - Plans to build a new 520 bridge have just cleared a major hurdle -- an underwater one.

It turns out, sunken ships in Lake Washington won't get in the way of a new bridge.

The sunken vessels are in the path of anchor cables for a much needed, new 520 bridge. Planners needed to know if the wrecks had historical significance, or were environmental dangers.

"I hope they're just some old scows that have been scuttled," said Patrick Clark with the Department of Transportation. "That way we can just remove 'em and we don't have to design the bridge around 'em. We can save a lot of money on design and construction."

Designers get their wish. A report just back says the barge called the Forest was built in Hoquiam in 1924, but there's no record of it sinking.

The other barge looks to be from the early 1900's, but it's too damaged to tell.

And historians thought the schooner might be a three-masted ship that burned in Meydenbauer Bay in 1923 ... but it's not.

"It turns out the hull's different. It's not the same length," Clark said. "It doesn't have the name of the vessel, it doesn't have quite the configuration of the one they were looking for."

It's disappointing news for history buffs and archaeologists, but good news for the DOT and frazzled drivers.

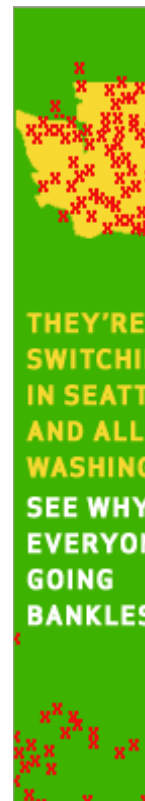
The sunken vessels, already deteriorating after decades underwater, will likely be destroyed for construction.

The DOT says it has to replace the current 520 bridge because it's vulnerable to windstorms and earthquakes.

Construction could start by 2008, with commuters enjoying a safer, easier drive in 2014.

**Tools**

- [Email This Story](#)
- [Printer-friendly Version](#)



Have A News Tip?  
Email Us  
or call  
1-TV-TIPS-KOMO  
press 1

 [Email This Story](#) |  [Printer-friendly Version](#)

 [return](#)

#### Related Advertising Links

Politics - War - Business - People 144+ Logo Links at NewsConnect.Net  
[www.newsconnect.net/](http://www.newsconnect.net/)

---

### Other Stories:

#### **Divers Searching Nooksack River For Missing Toddler**

Sheriff's spokesman Jeff Parks says the boy, wearing only a diaper, had just learned how to open the door; footprints lead to the river.

#### **Government Considering Air Passenger Database**

Supporters say it'll speed up the security check, but privacy advocates believe it will be a nightmare.

#### **Ken Schram Commentary: Trying To Be Positive**

Pardon my cynicism, but I just can't muster any real enthusiasm over our state lawmakers being back in town.

#### **Boy In Serious Condition Following Early Morning Accident**

A 14-year-old on his way to school was struck by a car in North Seattle.



#### **Another GI Killed In Iraq**

Roadside bomb kills U.S. soldier and wounds two others; American death toll in Iraq nears 500.

 [return](#)

---

 [top of page](#)

Some content on this site is enhanced with QuickTime Streaming Video and Audio. It requires the use of the free [QuickTime](#) you see the audio icon  or the video icon , just click to see and hear the material associated with that story.

Send comments and questions to: [Tips@KOMO4NEWS.com](mailto:Tips@KOMO4NEWS.com).

**FISHER**  
communications

This site contains copyrighted material of [Fisher Communications, Inc.](#) (KOMO TV) which may not be copied, distributed or re any way without KOMO TV's prior written consent. KOMO TV trademarks are also subject to legal protection and may not be without KOMO TV's prior written consent. KOMO TV is not responsible for the content of third party material provided to or lir this site. Some of the material on this site contributed by the Associated Press.