

• D4 The Seattle Times

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# Transportation:

## Bellevue's transit-lane request makes Redmond mayor see red

By DAVID SUFFIA  
Times Eastside Bureau

REDMOND — The mayor of Redmond reacted angrily yesterday to a suggestion by the Bellevue City Council that the state build a special mass-transit lane on the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge before it completes the Highway 520 freeway between Bellevue and Redmond.

The Bellevue City Council unanimously adopted a resolution Monday night urging the state to give top priority to adding a transit lane to the four-lane bridge, even if it means delaying completion of Highway 520.

Redmond has been waiting several years for the state to finish Highway 520, which carries traffic from the Eastside to the bridge and then to Seattle.

HIGHWAY 520 now dead-ends at 148th Avenue Northeast, and commuters going on to Redmond must get off the four-lane freeway and use surface streets from there.

"It's rather absurd to consider giving priority to a transit lane on the bridge over the completion of the missing link of 520," Mayor Selwyn (Bud) Young said.

"Redmond supported the construction of the Evergreen Point bridge, and it's only fair and rea-

sonable now for Bellevue to support completion of this link.

"We have no intention of waiting for completion of 520 until after a transit lane is added to the bridge," Young said.

THE BELLEVUE Council is arguing that the bridge is already too congested from increasing commuter traffic. It should have a special transit and carpool-only lane added before more freeways and highways are completed to congest traffic further, Bellevue councilmen said.

Young said a transit lane or lanes on the bridge "is an excellent idea." However, he said, it should be paid for out of tolls, not out of regular Highway Department funding that would be used to finish Highway 520.

"If they want to keep the tolls on the bridge a few years longer to pay for some additional transit lanes, fine," Young said.

Wes Bogart, district engineer for the State Highway Department, said the position of the department and a majority on the State Highway Commission is that winding up work on Highway 520 should have top priority over a new bridge lane.

BOGART SAID that planning by his department and the Puget Sound Council of Governments shows 520 extending to Redmond

and a little beyond. The state already has acquired the right-of-way along the proposed route.

"It seems logical that if the project is funded by the Legislature to give it top priority," Bogart said.

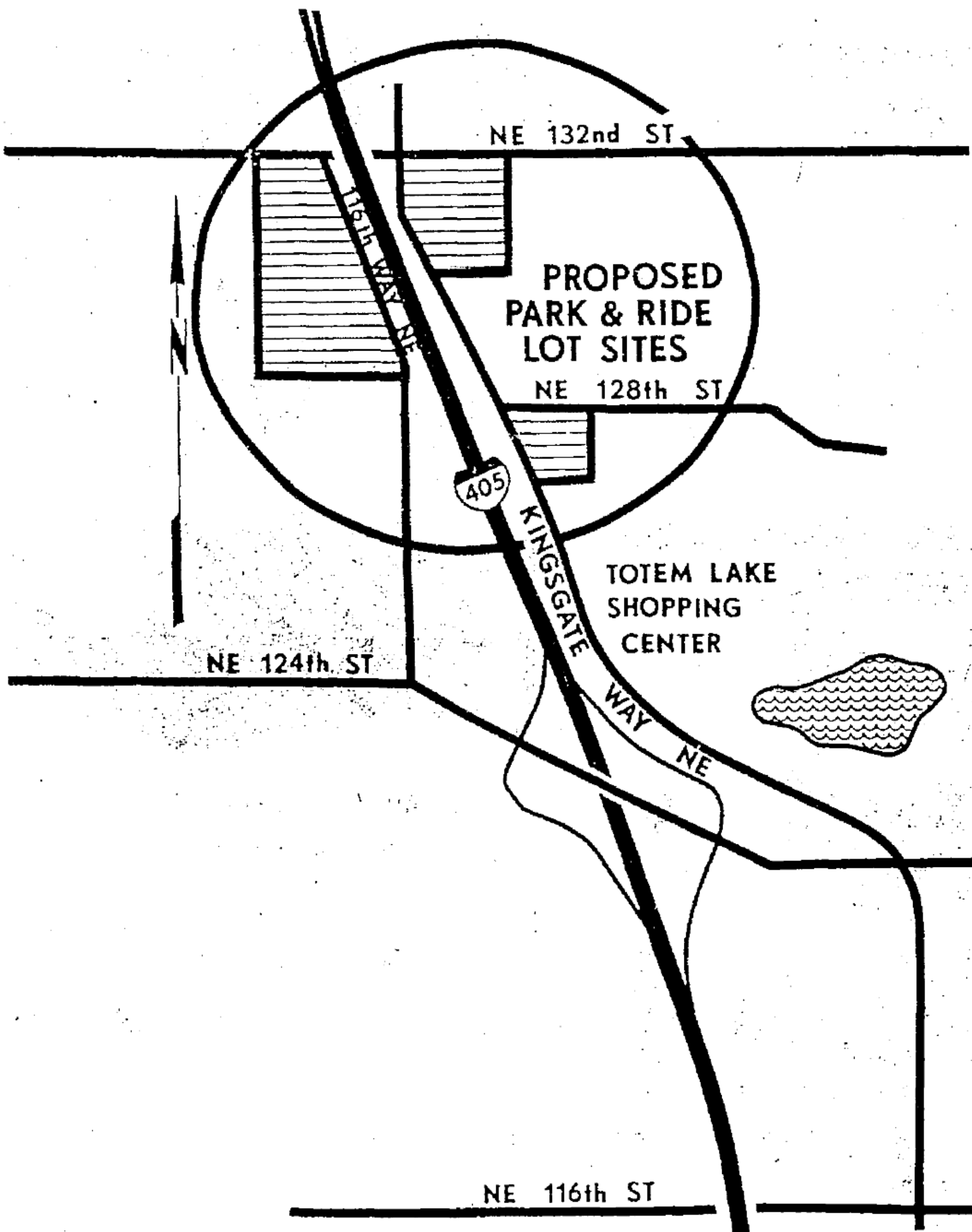
He said the question may be moot unless money is allocated for highway construction by the Legislature. The state doesn't have the money now to complete Highway 520.

If the Legislature funds new road construction, Bogart said, it would cost \$10 million and take six years to complete the highway to Redmond.

HOWEVER, Bogart said the department is studying the possibility of a mass-transit lane being added to the Evergreen Point bridge. It also is studying what effect the removal of tolls on the bridge in late 1978 or by 1979 will have on traffic congestion.

The state also is looking into what it would have to do to connect a new bridge transit lane to existing highways and freeways on the Seattle side.

"We haven't given up on the idea of an exclusive transit and car-pool lane on the bridge, but there are enough variables involved to convince us that we shouldn't throw a bunch of money into a bus lane just to show that we can build it," Bogart said.



## Proposed park-and-ride lot at Kingsgate to be aired next week

By LOU CORSALETTI  
Times Eastside Bureau

Plans proposed by the State Highway Department and Metro Transit for a 350-car park-and-ride lot, plus a transit-flyer stop serving Interstate 405 in the Kingsgate area, will be discussed in a public hearing Tuesday night at Juanita High School.

The plan, with three alternate site to choose from, calls for a \$2 million lot which would be built in 1978 if all government entities involved approve the project, Wes Bogart, Highway Department district engineer, said.

Bogart urged all concerned residents and others who may be affected by construction or subse-

quent service offered by Metro to attend the 7:30 p.m. hearing at the school, 10601 N.E. 132nd St.

Oral and written comments received at the hearing and during a 10-day period afterwards will become part of the hearing record, Bogart said.

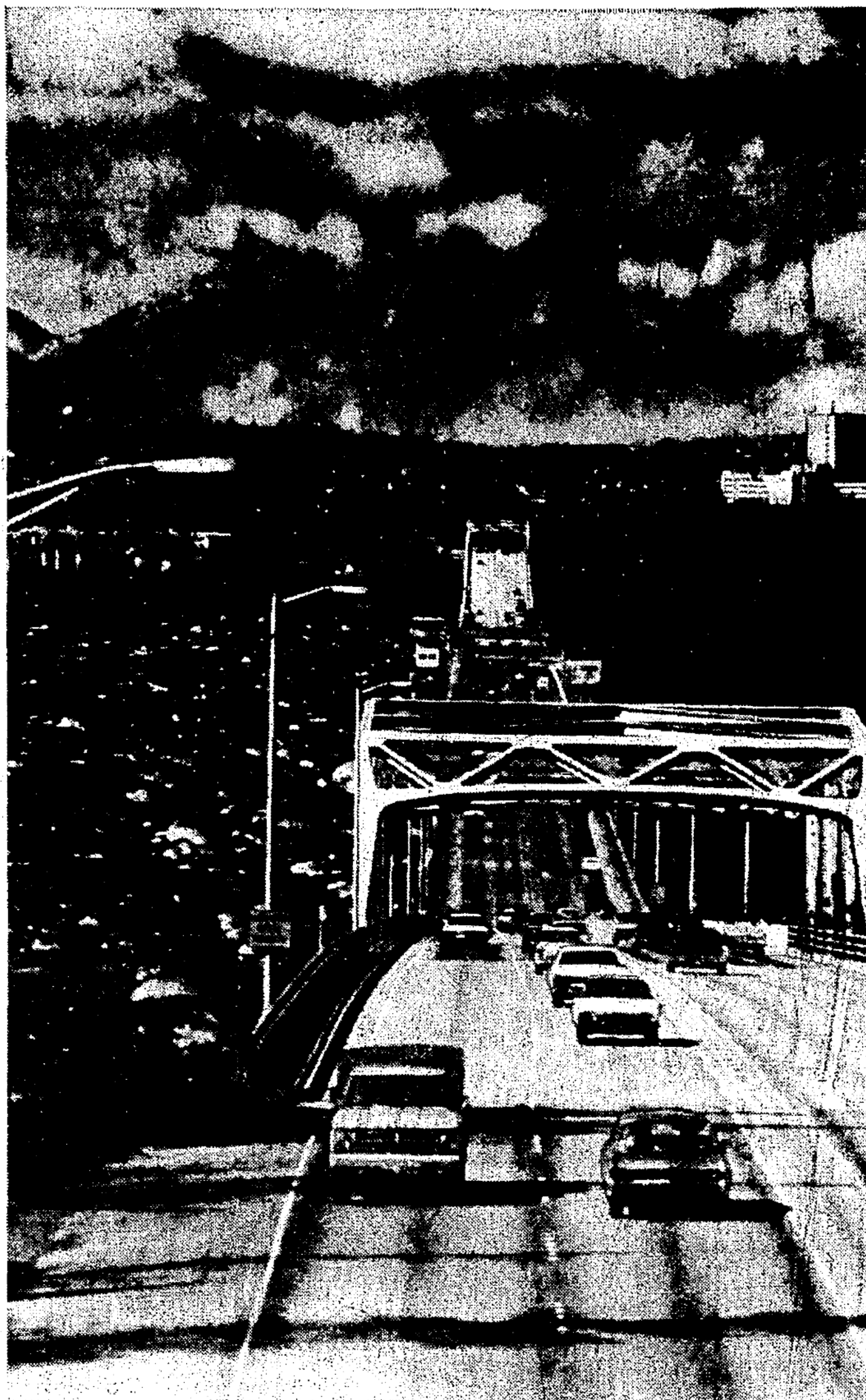
The department and Metro eliminated all but three sites after extensive study of possible locations. The site west of I-405, fronting on 116th Way Northeast, is the preferred location, Bogart said.

It would be expandable from an initial capacity of 350 vehicles up to 425, he said. The lot would include a passenger shelter, specially marked stalls for handicapped riders and a drop-off and pick-up

area for "kiss-and-ride" patrons. Other amenities would include fencing, landscaping and lighting.

Also, a freeway-level transit-flyer stop would be built to serve north and southbound I-405 patrons, and a pedestrian access to the park-and-ride lot from both flyer stops would be built adjacent to Northeast 132nd Street.

Bogart said the Highway Department would summarize the hearing as rapidly as possible, send it to department headquarters in Olympia for review and present it for action by the State Highway Commission. Design approval also would be needed from the Federal Highway Administration.



Evergreen Point Floating Bridge: Does it need a special transit lane to relieve already crowded traffic, or can it wait until the Highway 520 "missing link" is completed to Redmond?

## Bellevue teacher elected to post

Times Eastside Bureau

BELLEVUE — James Sabol, a Bellevue School District English specialist, has been elected national chairman of the secondary section of the National Council of Teachers of English.

He takes office next Monday.

Sabol joined the district 10 years ago as part of the administrative team that opened Interlake High School. He holds a bachelor's degree from Seattle University and a master's degree from the University of Washington.



James Sabol

## Park closed awhile to camping

Times Eastside Bureau

CARNATION — Overnight camping at MacDonald Memorial Park will be halted from next Wednesday to January 31, the County Parks Department has announced.

The park, near State Highway 203 near here, will be closed to camping for renovation and preparation for the 1977 season. Day use of the park will not be affected.



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## 'No lefts' on Juanita put off for time being

Times Eastside Bureau

A proposal to prohibit left turns from Juanita Drive Northeast onto North 155th Place has been withdrawn until alternatives are studied by the County Public Works Department.

The action came on the heels of opposition from citizens during an informational public hearing last week. The recommendation on the ban came after a survey by county police indicated that a number of rear-end accidents were due to motorists trying to make a left from Juanita Drive.

Several alternatives to the "no left turn" proposal will be investigated before a final recommendation is made to the County Council, Paul Hooper, a traffic and planning engineer, said.

Citizens who made comments at

the hearing will be notified when the study is completed and a recommendation is made, Hooper said.

commendation is made, Hooper said.

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