



Spring 2013

I-405 - NE 6th to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lanes

Construction now means congestion relief in 2015

What is WSDOT building?

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and its contractor, Flatiron Constructors, have started building the NE 6th Street to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lanes Project to provide 17 miles of additional congestion relief to travelers in the Bellevue, Kirkland, and Bothell areas. This work complements the recent I-405 widening project between NE 85th Street and NE 124th Street (Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 project) and the recent addition of a northbound auxiliary lane on I-405 between NE 195th Street in Bothell and SR 527.

WSDOT will:

- Add one new lane in each direction between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and SR 522 in Bothell. The existing carpool lane will be converted to an express toll lane (ETL). Together, these two lanes will operate as a dual express toll lane system. The carpool lane between SR 522 and I-5 will be converted to a single express toll lane in each direction.
- Build a northbound “braided” ramp system between the NE 160th Street and the SR 522 interchanges in Bothell to improve traffic operations. These ramps will separate traffic from vehicles traveling onto SR 522 from northbound I-405, and vehicles heading onto northbound I-405 from NE 160th Street, eliminating weaving and providing more efficient access to and from I-405.
- Build wider shoulders on southbound I-405 between SR 522 and NE 160th Street, and SR 527 and NE 195th Street, allowing buses to use the shoulders during peak periods.

What are the project benefits?

Congestion relief: The addition of the northbound and southbound lanes between SR 522 and NE 6th Street reduces congestion by increasing capacity. The new express toll lanes operate the roadway more efficiently, allowing drivers, transit, and freight to move more smoothly.

Safety: The additional capacity reduces sideswipe and congestion-related collisions.

Environment: This project improves the environment by building stormwater facilities to treat run-off water before it reaches area waterways.

Noise reduction: This project also adds or replaces eight noise walls to reduce freeway noise for nearby neighbors.

When will the project be complete?

Construction began in February 2012 and is expected to be complete by late 2015.



Questions or comments about I-405 construction?

Call the I-405 Program Hotline:
425-456-8585

Visit the project Web page:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I405/NE6thtoI5/

Sign up to receive email updates:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/emailupdates

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Washington State
Department of Transportation

What can you expect during construction?

WSDOT's construction plan for this project was developed to minimize impacts to both I-405 travelers and nearby neighbors. Most work will take place at night and during weekends to keep traffic moving during peak travel hours. Crews will take every reasonable measure to reduce nighttime noise and complete noisier work during daytime hours.

Drivers and transit riders can expect:

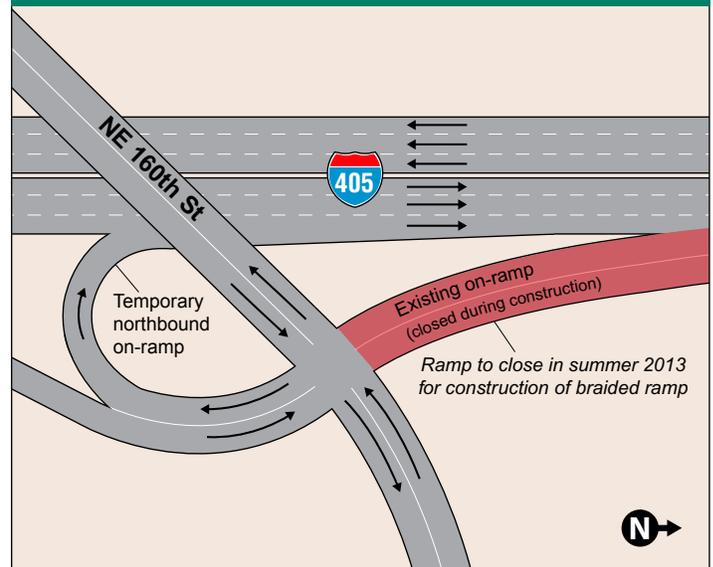
- Weeknight and weekend lane and ramp closures to conduct construction activities.
- Periodic nighttime detours at on- and off-ramps.
- Lane shifts and roadway restriping as crews create space for additional lanes and ramps.
- Access from NE 160th Street to northbound I-405 via a temporary loop ramp while crews build the permanent braided ramp.
- Temporary relocation of the northbound I-405 transit stop at NE 160th Street to the Brickyard Park and Ride on the west side of I-405.

Visit metro.kingcounty.gov for details.

Neighbors can expect:

- Daytime, nighttime and weekend work.
- Construction noise during the day and night from trucks and tractors, paving equipment, back-up alarms required for safety, and generators used to light work areas.
 - Crews will use best practices to reduce noise such as lining truck beds and completing some of the noisiest work during the day.
- Tree removal needed for roadway widening, ramp improvements, noise barrier construction, and drainage and water detention improvements.
 - Where possible, after construction is complete, crews will replant the available cleared areas with the type of trees and plants that are similar to other completed projects along the I-405 corridor.

Coming this summer: Temporary ramp at NE 160th Street



Crews are building a temporary loop ramp at NE 160th Street to maintain access to this busy northbound I-405 on-ramp while construction is underway to build the new, permanent braided ramp. Once the temporary loop ramp is open to traffic this summer, crews will begin constructing the new braided system. Keeping the on-ramp open allows construction to happen primarily during daytime hours, reducing nighttime noise for neighbors.

Coming in 2015: Braided ramp at NE 160th Street



Design visualization shows the completed braided ramp at NE 160th Street. This new ramp will improve safety and reduce congestion. The ramp will be open to traffic in late 2015.

How do Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) work?

Similar to the SR 167 express toll lanes between Auburn and Renton, I-405 ETLs will give solo drivers a choice to use carpool lanes by paying an electronic toll through a Good to Go! pass or by mail. Toll rates will automatically rise and fall based on traffic conditions to keep traffic in the toll lane moving even when general-purpose lanes are congested. Tolls will be based on destination traveled and congestion level.



Why build ETLs?

ETLs operate efficiently.

Express toll lanes move more people and offer a more reliable trip.

ETLs manage demand.

Because toll rates adjust electronically according to traffic levels, dynamic tolling effectively manages the volume of vehicles and increases performance for all lanes in the corridor.

ETLs strategically add capacity.

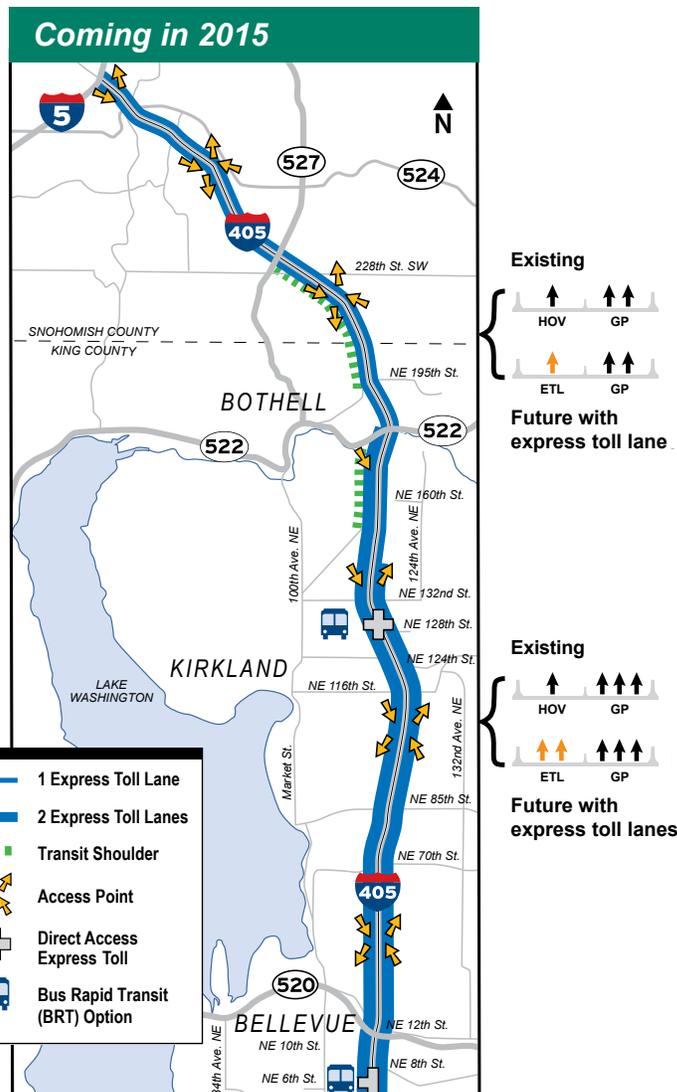
Express toll lanes increase throughput and minimize diversion to arterials and neighborhood streets. Drivers in the general-purpose lanes benefit when other drivers leave the general-purpose lanes to use the ETLs.

ETLs reduce congestion.

Express toll lanes improve speed and reliability for transit, freight, and drivers in all lanes by using dynamic pricing to keep the lanes free flowing.

ETLs generate revenue.

This revenue could help fund future corridor improvements from Renton to Bellevue and at the SR 167/I-405 interchange.



Drivers will have the choice to enter and exit the express toll lane system at designated access points.



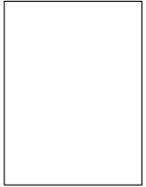
This visualization shows how an express toll lane system would look on northbound I-405.

Questions or comments about ETLs?

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling the Washington State Department of Transportation at (360) 705-7097. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call access Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1 and asking to be connected to (360) 705-7097.

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI Statement to Public

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the department to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Persons wishing information may call the WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity at (360) 705-7098.



I-405 - NE 6th to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lanes

Construction is underway to add capacity and improve traffic flow



The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and its contractor, Flatiron Constructors, are working to improve traffic flow on I-405 between NE 6th Street in Bellevue and I-5 in Lynnwood. Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015.

