Alaskan Way Viaduct
REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
WSDOT
King County
Port of Seattle
City of Seattle

April 2016

WSDOT traffic control plan will help keep people moving during approximate two-week Alaskan Way Viaduct closure

The Alaskan Way Viaduct will close for approximately two weeks starting Friday, April 29 to allow Bertha, the SR 99 tunneling machine, to tunnel beneath the viaduct near Yesler Way. WSDOT recognizes that this will impact traffic throughout the region, beyond SR 99 and I-5 in Seattle. So WSDOT and its partner agencies have developed an extensive plan to keep people moving during the closure.

WSDOT's transportation management center in Shoreline

Agencies proactively coordinating on planning and implementation

WSDOT has designed the traffic control plan in close coordination with SDOT, King County Metro, the Port of Seattle and other partner agencies. During the closure these agencies will conduct thrice-daily calls to coordinate efforts.

WSDOT's new transportation management center (TMC) in Shoreline, staffed 24/7, will be the communications hub for the closure. It will effectively link state and city traffic management centers and transit dispatch centers, expedite the movement of resources to areas of critical need, and assist with emergency response. From there communications staff will also post real-time traffic updates online, on social media, and to local media traffic reports.

SDOT will extend the hours of its traffic operations center (TOC), and WSDOT and the Seattle Police Department will have staff working there during commutes to facilitate agency coordination.

Deploying incident response teams, electronic signs and signal timing adjustments

To handle incidents quickly, WSDOT will have up to 12 incident response teams working during peak commute hours and SDOT will add three incident response teams during the closure.

WSDOT and SDOT will use their Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to monitor travel times and traffic patterns. Electronic message signs will begin reminding drivers about the closure up to one week before it begins, and during the closure will post travel times and suggest alternative routes.

SDOT has developed signal timing schedules to handle the anticipated changes in local traffic patterns during the closure. Traffic-responsive technology already installed on key corridors into downtown Seattle can detect traffic patterns and adjust signal cycles, and SDOT signal timing engineers will also assess patterns on a daily basis and adjust signal timing as necessary.

Additional efforts to help move people during the closure

Transit

- King County Metro is rerouting 12 routes and will deploy 22 extra buses to help maintain schedules
- King County Water Taxi will add two extra trips to its Vashon route
- King County is providing extra parking lots and spots along Harbor Ave SW in West Seattle for Water Taxi riders

City Streets

- Seattle Police Department will conduct manual traffic control in key intersections as needed to keep intersections clear
- Temporary parking restrictions along key routes will facilitate transit and general purpose travel times
- SDOT is expediting planned intersection markings along E. Marginal Way S to assist bicycle and pedestrian routes
- Traffic flow and temporary parking changes will help get vehicles on and off Aurora at Denny Ave, Wall Street and Battery Street
- SDOT is restricting lane closure requests by third parties on city streets

Highways

- I-5 express lanes will remain open in the northbound direction overnight
- Southbound I-5 HOV lane between Mercer and Corson will be "open to all" during the closure

WSDOT funding mitigation efforts during the closure

WSDOT is providing funding to partner agencies for services and efforts to help mitigate for the anticipated traffic impacts of the viaduct closure. The items WSDOT is funding include:

- Vehicle parking lot and free shuttle in West Seattle for Water Taxi passengers
- Two additional Water Taxi runs between Vashon and downtown Seattle
- Seattle Police Department sergeant in the SDOT transportation operations center (TOC) during commute hours
- Extended hours for SDOT's TOC (split cost with SDOT)
- Two additional SDOT incident response team units
- Posting of temporary parking restriction signage to assist transit and traffic flow
- Uniformed police officers at key intersections to conduct manual traffic control

Where to find real-time information during the closure

Twitter

@BerthaDigsSR99
@WSDOT
@WSDOT_traffic
@kcmetrobus
@seattledot
@SoundTransit
Search official #99Closure hashtag

Official apps:

- WSDOT
- SDOT
- King County Metro

Dedicated closure webpages:
www.99closure.org

Call the AWV program:
1-888-AWV-LINE

Local traffic reports

Follow local media outlets and traffic reports

Americans with Disabilities Act & Title VI Information

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