Strategies to Move to and through Downtown

Period of Maximum Constraint and the Permanent Viaduct Closure

2018-2023
In this presentation...

How we get to and around downtown Seattle is changing

Alaskan Way Viaduct closure is just the beginning

Change is the new normal

We’re working with our partner agencies to prepare

You can help by being informed, spreading the word and working to influence travel behavior

What can we do together?
Major projects in the Center City 2018-2024

PERIOD OF MAXIMUM CONSTRAINT

2018  2019  2020  2021  2022  2023 - 2024
Local and Regional Impacts

- 90K travelers using the Viaduct today will need to find another route
- Longer travel times and less reliable travel for bus riders and vehicle drivers
- More passengers waiting on already busy sidewalks
- Added delay and increased costs for freight/goods movement
- Impacts to everyone who comes downtown
Realign 99 impacts (2016 closure)

- Extensive delays on some bus routes
- West Seattle Water Taxi ridership doubled
- Train ridership increased
March 2019: Seattle Transit Tunnel for light rail only

- Supports light rail expansion and WSCC addition
- Brings routes 41, 74, 101, 102, 150, 255 and 550 to downtown surface streets
- Adds 80 buses per peak hour (both directions) for 15,000 passengers
- Impact: slower travel times on surface streets
- Opportunity: Improved speed and reliability for light rail
- Information: http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/tunnel/
Our 5 pillars for downtown mobility

- Make the best use of the streets we have
- Invest in Transit
- Reduce drive alone trips downtown
- Manage the public right-of-way
- Coordinated, regional communications
- Build mobility and pedestrian projects
- Ask for the public’s help
Make the most of the space we have
Highlights of SDOT’s actions during Viaduct closure

- Transportation Operations Center staffing – 24/7
- Daily communications coordination with WSDOT and partners
- Real-time construction and traffic information sharing with Google Maps, Waze, TomTom
- Temporary parking restrictions to add travel lanes
- Temporary permit revocation for construction activities in streets
- Uniformed police officers deployed at key transit intersections
- Supporting Metro: temporary bus staging, carpool, park-and-rides, new transit routes through south downtown
Invest in transit

- Add peak and shoulder bus trips to key metro routes (September 2018)
  - 17
  - 18
  - 28
  - 40
  - 56
  - 120
  - RapidRide C, D and E Lines

- Extend transit priority hours on 3rd Avenue (August 2018) and add off-board fare payment (Spring 2019)

- Expand access to ORCA (ongoing)
Reduce drive-alone trips into downtown

Tools

▪ Develop improved connections to transit from bikeshare and Uber/Lyft
▪ Provide telecommute or flexible scheduling support
▪ Encourage employer engagement and consultation
▪ Leverage investments in transit

Goal: fewer drive alone trips during the most congested times

• 2018: 1,200 fewer peak hour trips
• 2019: 3,000 fewer peak hour trips
Inform and encourage

- Targeted engagement to downtown and regional stakeholders, businesses, employers, employees, residents, visitors, etc...
- Briefings
- Transportation Fairs
- Website, blog and social media
- Media
- Regular partner coordination on information to communicate
Build mobility and pedestrian projects – One Center City

- $30M joint investment in projects (2017-2024)
- Focus on need to keep transit riders moving at current or improved speeds
- Includes 5th/6th transit pathway, signal improvements, all-door boarding on 3rd Avenue, public realm enhancements
- Pilots strategies for urban goods access
Key Downtown Seattle transit projects

- 5th & 6th Avenue Northbound Transit Pathway
- 4th Avenue Signal Improvements & Transit Priority Measures
- 3rd Ave Transit Restrictions and All Door Boarding
- 2nd Ave Signal Improvements
Support employers

City-led strategies to support employers and employees

- Share timely and useful information
- Bolster transit capacity and reliability
- Improve first/last mile and intermodal connections
- Expand telecommuting and flexible scheduling support
- Partner with Commute Seattle for employer engagement and partnership

Leading by Example:
City of Seattle plans internal telework promotion starting this fall.
Traveler strategies

▪ Stay informed – sign up today for SDOT alerts

▪ Don’t drive alone – take transit, ride a bike, form a carpool

▪ Be flexible and innovate if you can: work from home, compress your work week, come early, stay late

▪ Spread the word to your friends and neighbors

▪ Follow our blog: http://sdotblog.seattle.gov/

▪ Know before you go: https://web6.seattle.gov/travelers/

▪ Get ready: https://kingcounty.gov/getready

▪ Follow us on Twitter: @seattledot, @SDOTtraffic

▪ Sign up for ALERT SEATTLE, WSDOT and Metro Alerts
Coordinating regionally

▪ Goal: Help travelers around the region understand short and long term impacts in and beyond downtown
  • The key is communication
  • Watch for and use our increasing communications and updates
  • Continued events, presentations, and outreach; materials for distribution
  • Coordinate, leverage ongoing TDM efforts to achieve trip reduction and telework goals

▪ Tell us your concerns, new ideas for alignment, and feedback!
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2018-2023
Compressed Schedule and Telework

**Employee Benefits**
- Reduced stress from commuting
- Fewer distractions
- More comfortable environment

**Employer Benefits**
- 10-20% improved productivity
- Continues operations in situations that affect traffic (weather, congestion, Viaduct closures…)

**Find out more at**
https://kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/MetroTransit/Telework/WorkSmart.aspx

*Telework:*
Current rate downtown: 4.9%
Target: 10%
Some employers reach 30%!
- Saves over 1700 SOV trips per peak
- Frees nearly 3500 transit seats during the times of highest ridership demand
Employers and Property Managers

- **Boost employee communications.** Info allows adaptation.

- **Be a resource:** ask Commute Seattle about materials and information on different modes and routes

- **Be flexible and innovate:** telework, flexible scheduling, new routes, less cars

- **Be aware:** know the timeline and your sources for more info

Amp up all your programs. Consider...

- ORCA Passport
- Increase telework; improve policies
- Improve the bike room
- Form more vanpools or carpools
- Invest in a fleet of e-bikes
- Create a bikeshare benefit for your employees
- Become familiar with park-and-ride options

**REACH OUT TO COMMUTE SEATTLE FOR HELP WITH ALL OF THIS**
Private construction impacts
As soon as fall 2018: SR-99 Viaduct closes and the tunnel opens

- Permanent Viaduct and Battery Street Tunnel closure
- As soon as this fall
- SR-99 tunnel will open three weeks later - significant traffic impacts for six weeks
- Viaduct will be removed in 2019
- Impact: Increased traffic on I-5 and downtown surface streets
- Information: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/realign99
Realign 99 impacts on city streets

SR 99 closed
Duration: Approximately three weeks

Closure begins at West Seattle Bridge