Get ready: three-week SR 99 closure begins Jan. 11, 2019

What: Three-week SR 99 closure and up to six weeks of traffic impacts

When the new SR 99 tunnel is ready to open, WSDOT will need to close the highway for approximately three weeks to realign SR 99 into the tunnel. The closure will extend from the south end of the Battery Street Tunnel to the West Seattle Bridge. There will be up to three weeks of additional ramp closures before and after the three-week closure.

SR 99 closed
Duration: Approximately three weeks

All SR 99 on- and off-ramps will be closed between the West Seattle Bridge and the Battery Street Tunnel. The on- and off-ramps at Western Avenue will be open during the closure.

One week before closure
Southbound ramps that provide access to and from I-5 and I-90 will close about one week before the full closure.

One to two weeks after closure
After the new SR 99 tunnel opens the northbound off-ramp to downtown will remain closed for up to two weeks.
Why do we need to close the highway?

The current alignment of SR 99 near the stadiums is temporary, which allows traffic to travel through an active construction zone. Crews have to work in this alignment to connect SR 99 to the new tunnel. The closure is unavoidable due to the large amount of work involved in realigning SR 99. The graphics below show the path of SR 99 today (yellow) and the work zones during the closure (orange).

Stay informed

Website: 99Tunnel.com
Tweet: @BerthaDigsSR99 #Realign99
Email: viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov
Call: 1-888-AWV-LINE

EXPERIENCE THE TUNNEL

Step Forward
Portal to the past, present & future

DURING THE CLOSURE
Feb. 2-3, 2019

Say goodbye to the viaduct, hello to the future waterfront, and experience the new tunnel. The Step Forward event is two action packed days of fun including a tunnel walk, STEM activities, 8K fun run/walk and bike ride.

Americans with Disabilities Act & Title VI Information

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

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Travel alternatives during approximate three-week SR 99 closure

In order to open the SR 99 tunnel, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is scheduled to close SR 99 through downtown Seattle for approximately three weeks starting Jan. 11, 2019, while crews build the ramps and roadways to realign SR 99. Additional ramp closures before and after the main closure will mean travelers, especially those commuting to downtown from the south and west, will face up to six weeks of closure disruption.

We recognize that this closure will bring significant disruption to local and regional traffic patterns. WSDOT and its partner agencies are implementing a variety of measures to keep people moving, and ask commuters and employers to plan ahead and adjust commute habits where possible.

To prepare, below are some ideas of how you may be able to alter your commute during the closure.

**Travel alternatives**

**ADJUST YOUR TRAVEL TIMES & KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**
If your schedule is flexible, consider adjusting your work hours to avoid peak travel times (typically 6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.), which may start earlier and end later than typical rush hours during the closure.

Before you travel, check current travel times and stay engaged. Use WSDOT’s online commute calculator, SDOT’s traveler information map, or other real-time traffic tools to find out when you need to leave to arrive at your destination on time.

**TRANSIT AND PARK & RIDES**
There are over a dozen transit agencies operating in the Puget Sound region, all working to get you where you need to be. Check your transit options using the trip planning resources listed to the right.

If possible, plan your trips outside peak commute hours to avoid traveling when buses are likely to be more crowded. Check King County Metro’s and Sound Transit’s websites for service updates, including reroutes for buses that use the viaduct. WSDOT, King County Metro, Sound Transit and other local transit agencies are coordinating closely to keep people moving.

**Trip planning resources**

- WSDOT’s Seattle-area live travel times page
- WSDOT Traffic mobile app
- WSDOT Live Traffic Cameras
- SDOT Traveler Information Map
- Commute Seattle’s Commute Portal
- King County Get-Ready website
- King County Travel Options
- Puget Sound Trip Planner (desktop)
- Puget Sound Trip Planner (mobile app)
- Park & Ride locations and information
- OneBusAway mobile app
- Get Ready - King County Metro

Call King County Metro for help with trip planning at 206-553-3000

Questions? For additional information about the closure or to view a clickable version of this handout:
Visit [99tunnel.com](http://99tunnel.com) | Call 1-888-AWV-LINE | Email viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov | Twitter @BerthaDigsSR99 #99tunnel

Last updated: October 2018
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**Real-time traffic and travel tools**

Use these real-time tools before your trip or en-route to stay up-to-date on the latest travel conditions.

- **WSDOT Live Traffic Cameras**
  - [www.wsdot.com/traffic/seattle/default.aspx](http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/seattle/default.aspx)

- **SDOT Traveler Information Map**
  - [web6.seattle.gov/travelers](http://web6.seattle.gov/travelers)

- **WSDOT Travel Times**
  - [www.wsdot.com/traffic/traveltimes/default.aspx](http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/traveltimes/default.aspx)

- **Transit Alerts**
  - [kingcounty.gov/metro/signup](http://kingcounty.gov/metro/signup)

- **Travel news on Twitter**
  - @WSDOT_traffic
  - @SoundTransit
  - @MyCommTrans
  - @KCMeetroBus

- **Americans with Disabilities Act & Title VI Information**

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

The Alaskan Way Viaduct will close for approximately three weeks starting January 11, 2019. This three-week closure will be the longest major highway closure to ever hit the Puget Sound region. WSDOT and its partner agencies recognize that the closure will significantly impact traffic throughout the region and 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 twice-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 two additional incident response teams working during peak commute hours and SDOT will also add two 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 is developing 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 (21x, 37, 55, 56, 57, 113, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, and C line)
- King County Water Taxi will add an additional trip to West Seattle
- King County is providing extra parking lots and SDOT is providing 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
- 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
- Extended hours for SDOT’s TOC

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
- Additional Water Taxi runs between West Seattle and downtown Seattle
- Seattle Police Department sergeant in the SDOT transportation operations center (TOC) during commute hours
- 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
- Southbound I-5 HOV lane between Mercer and Corson will be “open to all” during the closure
- Use of Portable Message Signs to display real-time closure information

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Opening the tunnel: Ramps at the north portal
Opening the tunnel: Ramps at the south portal