

WSDOT Announces Major I-5 Rehab Project in Seattle; Plan Ahead for I-5 Lane Closures in August

It's not too early to plan ahead for major I-5 lane closures this August. Please let your coworkers, customers, friends and family know about this major construction project and it's affects on traffic.

The Washington State Department of Transportation will complete a major rehabilitation of I-5 between Spokane Street and the I-90 interchange this summer. This construction will significantly affect traffic near downtown Seattle, particularly during 19 continuous days of intense construction from Aug. 10-29. During that time crews will close several lanes of northbound I-5 at all times, **including workdays**, leaving only two or three lanes open to traffic.

I-5 from Spokane Street to the I-90 interchange is an elevated bridge that is more than 40 years old. Aged and worn expansion joints and pavement pose a risk to drivers unless they are rehabilitated. To help protect drivers and extend the life of the freeway, crews will replace the expansion joints on the northbound bridge and resurface the northbound lanes. They will also repair the expansion joints on the southbound bridge. The 19-day lane closures are the least disruptive way to complete the much needed construction work.

We need drivers' help; lengthy backups expected

The northbound I-5 lane closures will have a significant affect on West Seattle and south King County drivers. In addition, the lane closures will push traffic onto other routes, including I-405, State Route 99, and city streets in Georgetown, SODO, Rainier Valley and Beacon Hill. WSDOT is working with local communities, businesses and transit agencies to help keep traffic moving during construction. Despite these efforts, lengthy backups and significant traffic delays are expected.

WSDOT is encouraging freight shippers to start making arrangements now. During the major I-5 northbound lane closures, WSDOT recommends truck drivers use one of [three preferred options](#):

- * I-405, reconnecting with I-5 at milepost 182 (oversized vehicles permitted)
- * Exit 156 to northbound 599 to East Marginal Way South (oversized vehicles permitted), reconnecting with I-5 via SR 519 on-ramp to I-5
- * Exit 156 to northbound 599 to East Marginal Way South to Airport Way South, reconnecting with I-5 via Dearborn Avenue on-ramp to I-5

WSDOT is working with the city of Seattle to provide a temporary transit and truck only lane on Airport Way South. We are also taking steps to encourage commuters to avoid the area, take transit, carpool and vanpool. WSDOT is even encouraging people to schedule out-of-town vacations during the August 10-29 closures.

To learn more about the project

- * Visit WSDOT's Web site www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair
- * Call or e-mail Erin Stuber, WSDOT Communications, at 206-440-4704 or stubere@wsdot.wa.gov
- * Join WSDOT's I-5 Seattle/Shoreline e-mail updates list www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/EmailUpdates.htm
- * Schedule a briefing for a community or business group by contacting Erin Stuber