

South King County Projects Update

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Progress scheduled for the S. 178th Street overpass on I-5 in SeaTac

This month the [S. 178th street project](#) will be advertised for bid to private construction companies. This marks the end of the design phase and the transition into the construction phase that will permanently repair the bridge. The [overpass was struck](#) last December by a vehicle that exceeded the height limits on I-5. Since then we've been working to recoup damages and design repairs to the damaged girder and bridge deck.

This fall the contractor that we select will prepare their construction schedule and procure the new bridge girder that will replace the damaged one on the south side of the bridge. Construction activities will heat up after the busy holiday season near Southcenter mall. The overpass will be reduced back to one lane of alternating traffic at the end of February to allow crews to rip out the damaged girder, tie the new one in place and resurface the south half of the bridge deck. The repair work is expected to be complete next spring.

SR 123 now open following flood damage repairs

[SR 123 within Mount Rainier National Park](#) reopened Sept. 28 after crews repaired [extensive damage caused by last fall's flooding](#). A 10.9-mile long segment of SR 123 from just south of Cayuse Pass (intersection with SR 410) to just north of the intersection with the Stevens Canyon Road had been closed to all traffic since November 2006. SR 123 usually closes between late fall and mid-spring due to heavy snowfall and avalanche risk.

Through the end of October, crews will complete vegetation restoration work at the recently repaired flood damage sites on SR 123. You're advised to expect delays up to 20-minutes and to use caution through the area.

How are we doing at clearing traffic incidents?

If you travel the highways regularly, chances are you've seen one of our 55 [Incident Response Team](#) vehicles roving the 48 routes that they cover statewide to safely and quickly clear traffic incidents and reduce congestion. From April through

June 2007 our teams cleared 13,487 incidents. The average clearance time of 16 minutes remained steady from the first quarter of 2007. We responded to 26 percent more fatality incidents in the second quarter than in the first.

Fatality collisions take up to 60 percent longer to clear than non-fatality incidents. Governor Gregoire has set a target for us to reduce the total average duration of over-90-minute incidents by five percent for nine key highway segments. How are we doing at reaching that target this year, as compared to 2006?

- SR 18 (I-5 to I-90) – decreased 27 percent
- SR 167 – decreased 13 percent
- I-405 – decreased 11 percent
- I-5 (Vancouver to Canadian Border) – decreased 10 percent
- SR 520 – remained steady
- I-90 to North Bend – increased 20 percent (primarily the result of two particular incidents)

Overall we've met and surpassed the target by two percent (target is 165 minutes, we're at 163 minutes).

WSDOT invites contractors to learn about upcoming construction projects

If you're a contractor interested in working with WSDOT on upcoming highway projects, you're invited to attend a free business open house. This is an opportunity for prime contractors and subcontractors – both certified [Disadvantaged Minority and Women's Business Enterprises](#) (DMWBE) and non-certified contractors – to learn about upcoming projects scheduled to be advertised for bid in the next twelve months. Get information on the size, timing and scope of upcoming projects and speak with WSDOT staff and representatives from the State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, Washington State Ferries and the Urban Corridors Office. This is also a great chance to network with other prime contractors, subcontractors and WSDOT staff.

- Where: Shoreline Room, Shoreline Conference Center, 18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline
- When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Oct. 29
- Cost: Free, no advance registration required
- Contact: [John Huff](#), WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity, (360) 705-7010

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested. [Subscribe to other e-mail updates from WSDOT, unsubscribe or send us your questions and comments.](#)