

South King County Projects Update

[“Have you joined the tolling conversation? Help shape tolling in the 520 corridor.”](#)

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At 7 p.m. Nov. 18, WSDOT plans to close the 80-year-old State Route 169 Green River Bridge for at least six months due to concerns over public safety.

The structure is vulnerable to moving soils based on data gathered by electronic sensors in the landslide zone. [See photos of the site and the work we've done so far.](#)

The bridge, also known as the Kummer Bridge, is vital to the communities of Black Diamond and Enumclaw. It carries an estimated 9,000 trips each day including emergency services and law enforcement.

Local access is allowed up to the bridge. Signs point to two detour routes and [maps are on our Web site](#). Watch the [project page for updates](#).

WSDOT geotechnical engineers believe the soil supporting the bridge is showing unusual movement that could be aggravated by recent heavy rain. They are concerned that the soil might not be able to support one of the southernmost bridge piers. If the soil slides, the pier could move with it.

The long-term repairs will cost an estimated \$10 million and take place in two stages. Crews first will remove excess water by clearing trenches, unplugging manholes and installing pumps to help drain water from the unstable hillside. Then crews will excavate the soil that is putting pressure on the bridge pier.

They will dig out a section of roadbed 30 feet deep and 300 feet long just south of the bridge and replace it with lighter material.