



South King County Projects Update

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

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Tunneling restarts under I-405 in Renton

Crews have resumed tunneling for the new culvert that will carry Thunder Hills Creek [underneath I-405 in Renton](#).

Work halted in July when the eastbound boring machine became stuck as it tunneled about 60 feet below the freeway. The machine veered off course as it carved through a variety of soft and hard soils.

We worked with the contractor to recover the boring machine by tunneling from the opposite side of the freeway. On Friday, Oct. 10, crews reached the machine, retrieved it, and put it back to work again tunneling from the west side of I-405. [\(See photos.\)](#)

The Thunder Hills Creek culvert collapsed during a huge rainstorm in December, forcing the state to set up two pump and pipe systems [\(see graphic\)](#) to divert the creek's waters until a new culvert could be built.

The new culvert will be completed this month and the creek again will flow beneath I-405.

Final repairs to landslide on SR 169 near Black Diamond

Work started again this week to [stabilize a landslide](#) on State Route 169 near the Green River bridge in Black Diamond.

Good news for the road's 9,000 daily drivers: The bridge will be open to traffic in both directions during most of the work. Sometimes, traffic might be limited to one lane, or traffic might temporarily be stopped in both directions. Advance warning will be given if the bridge must be closed completely to traffic.

The contractor plans to work seven days a week during daylight hours to get the work done by early December.

In July, we installed long soil nails and sprayed on concrete in an emergency repair ([see photos](#)). Now, drainage pipes will be added to pull water away from the landslide area. The repairs will cost an estimated \$2 million, paid for with federal money.

New HOV lane on I-90 in Bellevue

We've [made some changes](#) on westbound I-90 to help carpoolers, vanpoolers and bus riders: Last Friday [we opened a new westbound HOV lane](#) between Bellevue Way SE and 80th Ave SE on Mercer Island.

Here is what you need to know:

- For drivers on westbound I-90 (either from east of I-405 or entering westbound I-90 from northbound I-405) a double white line now separates the HOV lane from the adjacent general purpose lane between Bellevue Way and the entrance to the center roadway. The double white line is meant to prevent last second merging and weaving before the center roadway entrance. Crossing the double lines could mean a citation and a \$124 fine.
- Carpools, vanpools and transit should merge into the HOV lane before Bellevue Way SE to ensure they enter the I-90 center roadway entrance at E. Mercer Way.
- For drivers entering westbound I-90 at Bellevue Way SE, carpools, vanpools and transit can take the new direct access ramp and enter I-90 in the HOV lane without having to merge across three lanes of traffic. The double white line will restrict access from the HOV lane to E. Mercer Way because of the short merging distance. Vehicles wishing to exit at E. Mercer Way should use the general purpose ramp.
- Both lanes on the existing two-lane on-ramp from Bellevue Way to westbound I-90 will be metered. There is no longer an HOV bypass lane on this ramp.

Des Moines celebrates habitat restoration

On Sunday, families celebrated environmental restoration work in the Des Moines Creek Basin ([see event photos](#)).

The [award-winning project](#) took eight years and \$19.4 million to complete. It restored and protected salmon habitat along Des Moines Creek, which flows through SeaTac, Des Moines and into Puget Sound.

There are new trails for biking and hiking and improved stormwater management for future development.

WSDOT reminds campaigns of rules for posting signs

As local and national elections heat up across the state and country, more and more political signs start appearing along Washington roadsides. WSDOT reminds campaigners that it's illegal to post campaign signs on the state highway right-of-way. Signs (other than those used for traffic control) within the right-of-way are prohibited.

WSDOT maintenance crews are asked to remove all illegal roadside signs within our right of way when performing routine maintenance work. If you're not sure about rules for posting signs, or want to make sure you're not on highway right of way, check out the [WSDOT Web](#) to learn more.