

South King County Projects Update

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Thank you for helping during I-5 Seattle closure

The [biggest construction closure in WSDOT history](#) is over, and you deserve a big round of applause.

On Saturday, Aug. 25, morning crews reopened lanes that had been closed for two weeks while they replaced failing expansion joints and paved the freeway. Contractor Concrete Barrier Inc. opened the lanes five days ahead of schedule despite two days of rain that shut down paving operations.

We did everything we could to keep traffic moving, but we couldn't have done it without your help. Northbound I-5 backup and delays were just a fraction of what we anticipated, thanks to drivers. We're still crunching the numbers, but the early data show a significant percentage of you took the bus, train or water taxi, drove alternate routes, carpooled, worked from home or changed your work schedule and took vacations. You also helped by spreading the word about the closures to friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.

We also had unprecedented cooperation from transit agencies, cities and businesses to keep traffic moving:

- Metro Transit, Sound Transit and Pierce Transit helped by taking buses off of I-5, enhancing service and getting the word out to riders.
- The city of Seattle helped by taking numerous steps to improve traffic flow on alternate routes, including adjusting 90 traffic signals, stationing trucks to quickly assist stalled vehicles, and limiting one Airport Way lane to buses, vanpools and trucks.
- The cities of Sumner, Auburn, and Puyallup provided more parking for train riders. The cities of Seattle and Tukwila also helped us avoid conflicts with other construction projects.
- Businesses and organizations stepped up by adjusting delivery schedules, allowing employees to come early, stay late or work from home, providing alternate work sites, and providing incentives to employees who altered their commute patterns.

Please plan, check, prepare, and repeat for Labor Day weekend travel

To get the most enjoyment out of your last summer weekend, we're encouraging you to plan ahead, check your route and prepare for delays, then repeat that process before you head home.

The [best times to travel](#) on Labor Day weekend are before noon Friday and before 10 a.m. or after 10 p.m. Monday. Expect higher-than-normal traffic volumes Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Monday afternoon.

Expect long delays on I-90 and US 2 mountain passes during peak travel times Friday and Monday. We've seen an unusual increase in traffic over I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass this month, and we anticipate record travel on Labor Day.

[Read our Labor Day travel advisory](#) for more information to help you make the best decisions about your trips this weekend.

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.](#)