

## South King County Projects Update

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### Nine days and counting until “crunch time” in Bellevue

Weekend southbound I-405 closures in [Bellevue](#) to remove the [Wilburton Tunnel](#) are only nine days away. How will you get around the region during the closures? We've got you covered.

We've created a [Web page with detour maps](#) you can use to find the best alternate route. This Web page also has a complete list of the ramps that will be closed.

To safely remove the tunnel, WSDOT crews need to close all lanes of southbound I-405 between SE 8th Street and I-90 in Bellevue for three weekends in August. The closures will take place from **11 p.m. on Friday to 5 a.m. on Monday** on the following weekends:

- Aug. 8 – Aug. 11
- Aug. 15 – Aug. 18
- Aug. 22 – Aug. 25

We are asking drivers to “[Give 'em a Brake](#)” in active work zones or when they see maintenance workers. Please observe the speed limit, leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you, and don't use your cell phone while driving.

### Work progressing along a new section of southbound I-405 in Renton

Construction on [I-405 between I-5 and SR 167](#) in Renton and Tukwila is about to reach a milestone. After the weekend of Aug. 8-10, drivers traveling southbound along I-405 will be using a new bridge over Oakesdale Avenue SW. Currently, crews are putting the finishing touches on the new portion of the bridge and paving the southbound lanes.

During the weekend of Aug. 8-10, drivers can expect up to two lanes of southbound I-405 to be closed between SR 169 and I-5 so crews can [shift southbound I-405 traffic](#) onto the new bridge. Crews will also need to close the ramp from southbound SR 167 to southbound I-405 to shift southbound traffic onto the new bridge.

Crews will continue constructing the northbound lanes of the new bridge over the next year. By summer 2010, the new bridge will hold four lanes of traffic in each direction.

Please visit our [I-405 construction update Web page](#) for up to date closure information.

## Crews to close I-90 bridge for annual Blue Angels Seafair show

Are you headed across the I-90 bridge this week? Be sure to plan ahead for [closures on I-90 for the Blue Angels](#).

We will close all lanes of I-90 between I-5 and Island Crest Way several times between Thursday, July 31 and Sunday, Aug. 3 to accommodate air show practices and performances for this year's Seafair festivities.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires us to close the I-90 bridge while the Blue Angels perform for the safety of both drivers and pilots. The SR 520 bridge will remain open. [Get details about the closures](#).

## Are we really driving less? Really?

Drivers appear to be succumbing to sticker shock at the pump. This month's [update of statewide traffic volumes](#) shows that traffic was down nearly five percent last month compared to the past three years.

Usually people drive more each year, not less. In the first five months of 2008, we saw roughly a two percent drop in volume. But in June, driving tanked. In a typical year we would expect a 3 percent increase.

Has driving become a luxury for you as the price of gas keeps going up? Are you planning to ditch your car for a bike or mass transit? [Tell us what you think](#).

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