



## **Downtown Seattle and SODO Construction Coordination and Communications**

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### **Organized construction coordination and notification**

To better organize construction closures, identify potential conflicts and provide internal and external customers with the latest and greatest construction closure information, construction traffic and communications teams from WSDOT Alaskan Way Viaduct Program, WSDOT Northwest Region and SDOT will work together to collect, organize and review information from project teams at least once a week.

This information will be used to coordinate construction closures, identify risks, develop messages for the public and provide consistent information to our internal and external customers regarding construction projects affecting vehicle or pedestrian traffic on SR 99, I-5/I-90 interchange, SR 519 and city streets through downtown Seattle and SODO.

### **How is information collected from WSDOT project offices?**

- Communications staff will request detailed closure information from project offices each Wednesday. They will request a three week advance notice of construction in downtown Seattle. This includes the time, date, location, type of work. (see closure request form)
- Project offices will send in proposed closures by 2 p.m. on Monday.
  - Week 1: construction that will occur
  - Week 2: planned construction closures
  - Week 3: planned construction closures
- [ViaductConstruction@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:ViaductConstruction@wsdot.wa.gov): All information is sent to a central e-mail address. Both communications and construction traffic coordination staff will have access to this inbox.

### **What if project offices fail to send information?**

- The WSDOT Construction Traffic Manager Jack Bighorse has the authority to prevent any WSDOT project office that does not provide advance notice of upcoming closures from closing lanes or performing work.

## Construction coordination schedule

- **Monday** – Information about upcoming closures is collected from WSDOT project offices and reviewed for conflicts and public relations risks.
- **Tuesday** – Construction traffic coordination and communications teams WSDOT Alaskan Way Viaduct, WSDOT Northwest Region and SDOT work to spot conflicts and resolve issues between projects (see conflict resolution chart).
- **Wednesday** - WSDOT and SDOT meet with SODO stakeholder groups to provide them with advance notice of construction affecting traffic in their vicinity.
- **Thursday** – Verified and approved closure information is posted to the Web: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/King/Seattle.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/King/Seattle.htm) This Web site is updated throughout the week as closure schedules change or unforeseen issues affect traffic control and detours.
- **Friday** - Reserved as an extra day to resolve conflicts between projects and coordinate communications efforts.

## Wednesday stakeholder construction update meeting; roles and responsibilities

Each Wednesday, WSDOT and SDOT will meet with SODO stakeholder groups at Safeco Field and provide advance notice of construction affecting traffic in their vicinity. They will also discuss on-going construction issues, upcoming long-term closures and on-going project design issues.

### WSDOT Alaskan Way Viaduct Program staff

- Jack Bighorse; Construction Traffic Manager
- Travis Phelps; Construction Communications Manager
- Tom Madden; Engineering Manager

### WSDOT Northwest Region staff

- Brian Dobbins; Construction Traffic Engineering Manager
- Darrin Tish; South King County construction traffic

### City of Seattle staff

- Paul Elliott; SDOT Communications
- Trevor Partap; SDOT Construction Traffic Manager
- Abby Rudell; SDOT GIS Analyst
- Gregory Carlson; Seattle City Light

## Wednesday stakeholder meeting; structure

The stakeholder construction update meeting is divided into two parts: traffic and construction.

### Traffic

Jack Bighorse, Travis Phelps, Trevor Partap and Paul Elliott will chair this portion of the meeting. Standing agenda items include:

- They will ask for feedback about past construction closures from stakeholder groups
- Staff will walk stakeholders through upcoming closures in downtown Seattle and SODO.
- Brief stakeholders on last minute construction schedule changes or issues.
- Discuss communications strategies and timing.

### Construction

Tom Madden and Trevor Partap will chair this section of the meeting. Standing agenda items include:

- Upcoming long-term closures
- Construction issues and challenges
- On-going project design issues

## About this system

- **Past success:** WSDOT's Northwest Region has used a similar strategy for more than a decade to plan major closures. In 2009, this system was critical in helping construction traffic engineers schedule the largest construction season in Washington state history.
- **Strengthens existing relationships:** This approach requires project staff to break the boundaries between agencies, regions and divisions; consultants, contractors. As a result existing relationships between WSDOT, City of Seattle and other local agencies, utilities and organizations will continue to grow stronger.
- **No Surprises:** Receiving information directly from project teams WSDOT can effectively manage driver and agency expectations. WSDOT can enhance its credibility with the public and media by becoming the first and best of information about the agency, whether the news is good or bad.

- **Coordination:** WSDOT construction traffic and communications teams will use information from project teams to see the big picture. They will be able to identify and if possible resolve conflicts between construction projects. This system also helps project teams be better prepared to handle unexpected issues by providing access to additional resources and expertise.
- **Public outreach:** Having regular, timely meetings helps the communications team identify potential impacts that others may have missed and get the word out to drivers. The construction traffic coordination process