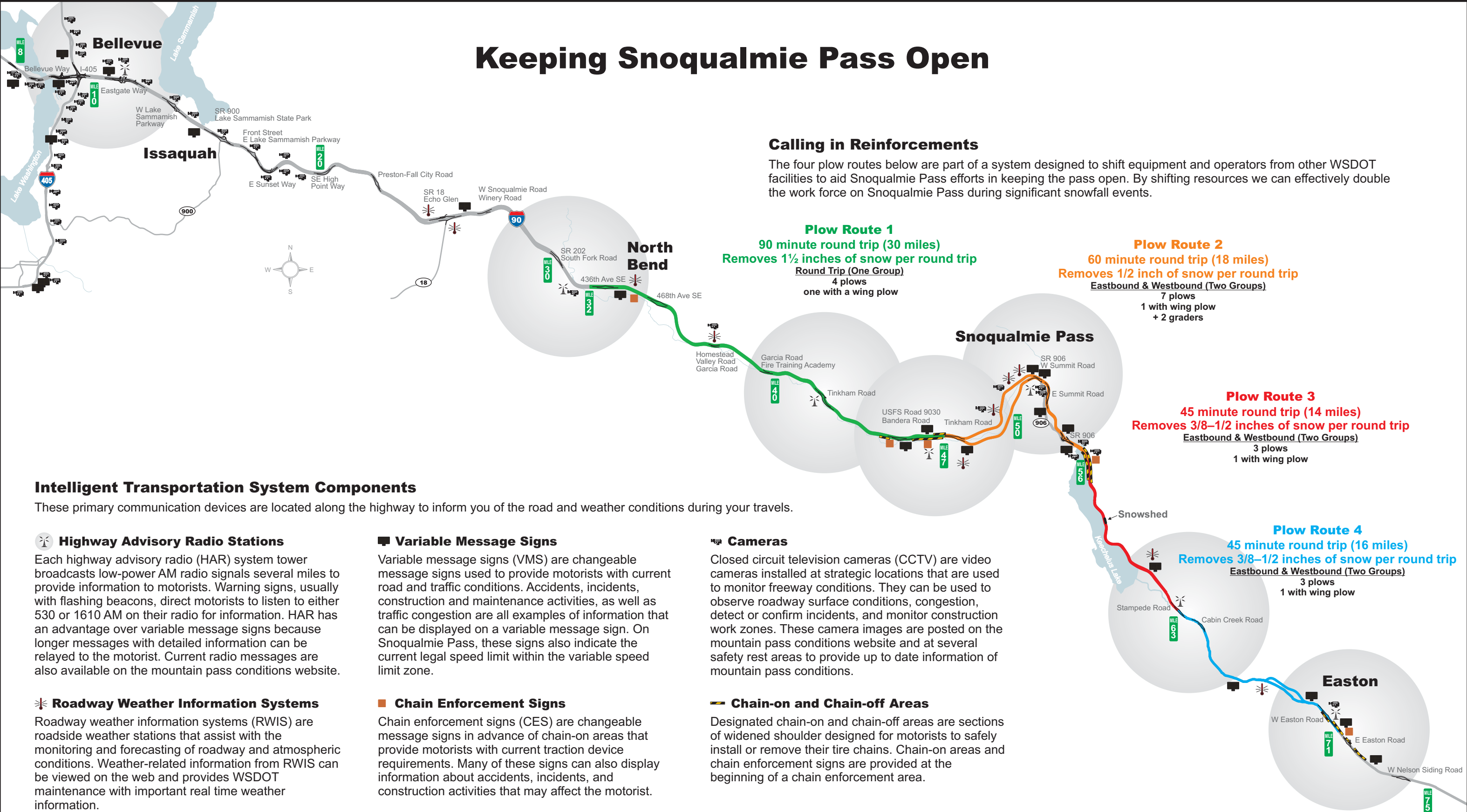


Keeping Snoqualmie Pass Open



Intelligent Transportation System Components

These primary communication devices are located along the highway to inform you of the road and weather conditions during your travels.

Highway Advisory Radio Stations
Each highway advisory radio (HAR) system tower broadcasts low-power AM radio signals several miles to provide information to motorists. Warning signs, usually with flashing beacons, direct motorists to listen to either 530 or 1610 AM on their radio for information. HAR has an advantage over variable message signs because longer messages with detailed information can be relayed to the motorist. Current radio messages are also available on the mountain pass conditions website.

Variable Message Signs
Variable message signs (VMS) are changeable message signs used to provide motorists with current road and traffic conditions. Accidents, incidents, construction and maintenance activities, as well as traffic congestion are all examples of information that can be displayed on a variable message sign. On Snoqualmie Pass, these signs also indicate the current legal speed limit within the variable speed limit zone.

Cameras
Closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) are video cameras installed at strategic locations that are used to monitor freeway conditions. They can be used to observe roadway surface conditions, congestion, detect or confirm incidents, and monitor construction work zones. These camera images are posted on the mountain pass conditions website and at several safety rest areas to provide up to date information of mountain pass conditions.

Roadway Weather Information Systems
Roadway weather information systems (RWIS) are roadside weather stations that assist with the monitoring and forecasting of roadway and atmospheric conditions. Weather-related information from RWIS can be viewed on the web and provides WSDOT maintenance with important real time weather information.

Chain Enforcement Signs
Chain enforcement signs (CES) are changeable message signs in advance of chain-on areas that provide motorists with current traction device requirements. Many of these signs can also display information about accidents, incidents, and construction activities that may affect the motorist.

Chain-on and Chain-off Areas
Designated chain-on and chain-off areas are sections of widened shoulder designed for motorists to safely install or remove their tire chains. Chain-on areas and chain enforcement signs are provided at the beginning of a chain enforcement area.



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