



I-90 Bellevue to North Bend Corridor Study

Fall 2007

Why is I-90 important to Washington State?

Interstate 90 is one of two nationally important routes in Washington State. It moves people, freight and goods and provides critical connections to interstates 5 and 405 and state routes 18 and 519.

I-90 is the only main east-west corridor that connects eastern and western Washington, which makes it critical to the state's economy and vital to the 10 million people who travel this corridor each year.

Currently, about \$3.5 billion regional, state and federal investments are either under construction or planned on I-90 between Seattle and North Bend including the I-90 Two Way Transit and HOV Operation project, Sound Transit's East Link light rail project, Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and preservation projects.

Also included is the I-90 Seattle to North Bend Corridor Study, currently underway by WSDOT, which will provide a list of short and long term projects that address safety and mobility issues for this segment of I-90 for the next 20 years. As we develop this list of near and long-term investments we will take into consideration the relationship of all the plans and projects (regional, state and federal) for the interstate.

Why is WSDOT studying I-90 between Bellevue and North Bend?

WSDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) co-manage the interstate system in Washington State. Any changes to the interstate system, including I-90, require FHWA's approval. FHWA approved construction of the I-90 Sunset interchange in Issaquah with the requirement that WSDOT fund and conduct a corridor study that addresses the safety and mobility needs of this fast-growing corridor. To meet this requirement, the 2005 Washington State legislature funded \$2 million for a study of I-90 between Eastgate in Bellevue and 465th Ave. S.E. in North Bend so that we can identify short- and long-term projects for this corridor to address safety and mobility needs.



The study covers 26 miles of I-90 from Bellevue to North Bend

What issues will the study address?

Safety

Between 2003 and 2005, there were 1,121 collisions on I-90 between Bellevue and North Bend. The corridor study will identify safety projects to help reduce the number and severity of these collisions.

Congestion relief

High traffic volumes and merge problems contribute to congestion and longer travel times along the corridor. We will identify projects to improve freeway chokepoints and bottlenecks.

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The study will provide a list of short- and long-term safety and mobility highway projects for the legislature and local agencies to consider funding over the next 20 years. Additional funding will be needed for the project designs and complete cost estimates that are required to build the improvements.

Did You Know?

- Congestion on I-90 spans three hours during the morning commute and two hours during the evening commute.
- Traffic over the last decade has escalated 95 % west of the Sunset Interchange in Issaquah, nearly 40 % near North Bend, and more than 26 % between Bellevue and Issaquah.
- More than 7,000 trucks travel through Issaquah daily.

How are communities and local agencies involved?

Local government and agency representatives

We established a corridor working group composed of representatives from cities and towns along I-90, as well as King County, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Regional Council, Federal Highway Administration and WSDOT. This group advises us on the needs, priorities and potential improvements for the interstate.

I-90 users

The I-90 corridor study benefits from the involvement of communities along the corridor and all I-90 users. We are asking drivers and residents to help inform us about the issues and needed investments on I-90. So far, more than 200 Eastside residents have pointed out bottlenecks, difficult merge spots and choke points on the interstate.

Highlights of what we've heard from you so far...



Safety

A large number of people have cited the SR 18/I-90 and I-405/I-90 interchanges and the Eastgate, Front Street and SR 900 on- and off-ramp areas as locations where substantial congestion and unsafe driving conditions occur.



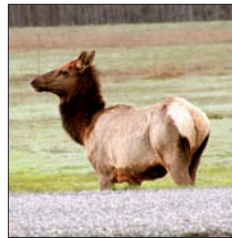
Transit

I-90 users say they want more public transportation along the corridor between Seattle and North Bend.



Mobility

Drivers say they are finding it harder to merge, change lanes, and access on-ramps because there are more cars than available space.



Connectivity

Residents say they are concerned about limited options across I-90 for people, vehicles and wildlife.

I-90 Corridor Study Timeline

Summer 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit local fairs and festivals to get feedback on I-90 issues• Analyze existing conditions and future needs• Develop list of improvement options
Winter 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local agency representatives review draft project list• Draft project list available on our web site and at community locations.• Seek public input on improvement options
Spring 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize list of improvement projects• Final project list available on our web site and at community locations.

For More Information

Visit us online:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/RDP/i90/EastgateTo465th.htm

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