

South King County Projects Update

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Stuck in gridlock on SR 167? HOT lanes opening day announced

A new option for solo drivers stuck in gridlock on SR 167 is just around the corner. On Saturday, April 26, the [SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project](#) will open the carpool lanes on SR 167 between Renton and Auburn to solo drivers who pay an electronic toll using a [Good To Go!](#) transponder. The toll amount will automatically increase or decrease with current traffic levels to ensure carpoolers continue to have the same express service they rely on.

Transponder shields are now available. *Good To Go!* customers who carpool on SR 167 can purchase windshield transponder shields for \$3.50 each. [Visit the Web site for more information.](#)

This is a four-year pilot project that will study how variable tolling can help make SR 167 more efficient by tapping into unused space in the existing carpool lanes. Watch your e-mail box for the South King County Projects Update for more information as the HOT lanes opening nears.

You asked for a better *Good To Go!* site; Let us know if we delivered

We are very excited to announce we have launched improvements to the [Good To Go!](#) site. This page is the access point to get to your *Good To Go!* transponder for tolling on the [Tacoma Narrows Bridge](#) and [SR 167 HOT lanes](#). This site allows you to access your account information and verify payment, billing and more.

We made these changes based on feedback you sent us and made it easier to get the information you need. Is it clearer and easier to use or do you prefer the old version? [Tell us what you think.](#)

Remove studded tires before Sunday, April 6

Now that spring is here, it's time to [remove the studded tires](#) from your vehicle. WSDOT, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Transportation, extended the official March 31 deadline to April 5 so drivers would be able to keep their studded tires on through the most recent winter weather pattern, plus have time to remove the tires.

Washington State Patrol troopers will enforce a \$124 fine for those who keep their studded tires on beyond the deadline. There are a variety of [studded tire alternatives](#) available and you can continue to use other approved traction tires. Work with local tire dealers to determine the best type of tire for your anticipated winter driving conditions.

WSDOT seeks comments on state's bicycle and pedestrian plan

What do Washington's communities need when it comes to bicycle and pedestrian transportation? How can the state help to meet those needs? What would encourage people to walk or bicycle more often?

We need answers to questions like these to help us update our bicycle facilities and pedestrian walkways plan for Washington State. We are asking people to [review our draft of the plan](#) and send us their comments through May 31st 2008. Comments can be submitted through the [Web site](#) or by calling the toll free number: 1-866-375-6729.

This month we will host public hearings in cities across the state so we can hear from you. A public hearing will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., April 25 in downtown Seattle at REI, 222 Yale Ave. N.

WSF lights the way for salmon

WSDOT's Ferry Division hopes to [light the way for migrating salmon](#) in Port Townsend. A new research project will assess how migrating fish respond to artificial light, during the next two years, at the Port Townsend Ferry Terminal.

Studies have shown that structures like ferry docks cast shadows over the waters near shore and affect the migration of juvenile fish. Because the small fish are used to bright water, they avoid the dark areas and maneuver around the structures, driving them into deeper water where they are more likely to become prey for other fish and birds.

To counter this, WSDOT, along with the University of Washington and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, are installing a fiber-optic lighting system under the Port Townsend Ferry Terminal to encourage fish to migrate under the structure. A solar power system above the terminal will run the lights during the day in an attempt to match sun levels in open water.

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.](#)