

South King County Projects Update

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In this issue

- Crews to install new bridge girder in the S. 178th Street overpass
- Upcoming paving project on SR 181 (West Valley Highway)
- WSDOT announces draft recommendations to improve safety and congestion on SR 167
- WSDOT site profiles new strategies to fight congestion and improve safety
- Sound Transit seeks public sound-off about expanding transit

Crews to install new bridge girder in the S. 178th Street overpass

This weekend crews will install a replacement bridge girder in the [S. 178th Street bridge over I-5](#). Crews will start closing lanes on southbound I-5 near Southcenter around 7 p.m. Saturday night, March 1. Southbound I-5 from the I-405 interchange to S. 188th Street will be completely closed from 11:59 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday morning, March 2 so crews can swing the replacement girder in place. Traffic will follow the [same detour](#) as last weekend. S. 178th Street will also be closed from 10 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday so crews can secure the girder to the overpass. Repairs will continue on the S. 178th Street overpass through May.

Last week on Thursday, Feb. 21 crews installed a temporary smart signal to alternate traffic across the overpass while they repair the south side of the structure. The signal is equipped with a sensor that detects traffic on either side of the overpass and automatically adjusts the signal timing to reduce delays. Crews initially had difficulty activating the sensor. They contacted the manufacturer and the sensor has been working since Friday afternoon, Feb. 21. Keeping in mind a temporary signal is never as efficient as two lanes of traffic, [let us know](#) how the smart signal is performing.

Upcoming paving project on SR 181 (West Valley Highway)

Driving on the West Valley Highway will soon be smoother. Beginning in April, WSDOT and ICON Materials will be repaving SR 181 from James Street to S. 180th Street in Kent. The project will also provide new or improved pedestrian ramps at intersections with crosswalks, new signing, and new lane striping. The project will give drivers a safer, smoother ride, improve pedestrian accessibility through the intersections, and preserve the roadway for many years to come.

WSDOT announces draft recommendations to improve safety and congestion on SR 167

WSDOT and the SR 167 Corridor Working Group – local representatives from cities, agencies, ports and the Muckleshoot Tribe – have completed the draft recommendations for the [SR 167 Valley Freeway Corridor Plan](#) to improve safety and relieve congestion on 27 miles of SR 167 between Renton and Puyallup.

A corridor plan is the first step to obtain funding for transportation improvement projects. It identifies existing and emerging safety and mobility problems, and proposes specific recommendations to be implemented over the next 20 years.

With a 50 percent increase in employment expected along SR 167, we are planning projects that will help ease congestion as growth in the area continues.

The recommendations include adding a lane in each direction of SR 167 from Interstate 405 in Renton to SR 161 in Puyallup.

- Between I-405 and SR 18 the new lanes on SR 167 would be operated as general-purpose lanes to improve traffic flow.
- South of SR 18 the new lanes would be operated as high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes and tie into the [SR 167 HOT Lane Pilot Project](#) set to open to traffic this spring.
- Auxiliary lanes would also be added in two locations: from I-405 to South 180th Street, and from SR 516 to South 277th Street. Auxiliary lanes, also called “add-drop” lanes, start at one interchange and end at the next interchange to help reduce merging conflicts.

More details can be found [online](#). The final report should be available this spring.

WSDOT site profiles new strategies to fight congestion and improve safety

WSDOT is exploring new congestion-reducing innovations to make our highways less congested, longer lasting and safer for all. Three new Web pages – [Congestion](#), [Preservation](#) and [Safety](#) – now offer detailed information about how we’re facing current and future transportation challenges with new technology, new goals and new ideas.

Sound Transit seeks public sound-off about expanding transit



Sound Transit is [asking Puget Sound area residents to shape the future of mass transit](#) in this region. Postcards will soon arrive in your mailbox inviting you to participate in an online survey about improving transit. The [survey](#) will help Sound Transit decide how best to tackle increasingly poor commuting conditions with the right expansions of regional light rail, commuter rail and express bus service, and infrastructure.

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.](#)