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Be safe and avoid the headache: check our Memorial Day Weekend travel trends

Memorial Day is the kick-off to the summer travel season, and a few minutes of planning could make your weekend travel a little easier. Plan ahead and know before you go by checking our [Web site](#) or dialing our 24-hour traveler information line, 5-1-1.

You can find the [best times to travel](#) Washington highways over the weekend. We've tracked information for three key holiday travel routes that include: US 2, I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass, I-5 at the Canadian Border and I-5 south of Thurston County.

Don't be a congestion victim! Use WSDOT tools to plan your trips this summer

Along with spring and summer comes another season -- construction season. Our 2009 construction season is in full swing on I-90 across the state. Crews replaced the floating bridge expansion joints in Seattle; two [Recovery Act](#) projects are underway and two more will soon begin from North Bend to Ellensburg; and [bridge deck](#) work is slowing traffic near Spokane. It's no illusion; you are seeing orange barrels in many places. That's a good thing because construction means [jobs](#), infrastructure repair and congestion relief.

To avoid construction congestion on I-90 this spring and summer, call 5-1-1 or visit WSDOT's [traveler Web page](#). You can also check out our [blog](#) on navigating this year's construction season.

Bridge deck work on I-90 near Spokane has begun

Contractor crews began work to repair and resurface two bridges on [I-90 near Spokane](#) this week. The two bridges carry I-90 traffic across Medical Lake/Four Lakes Road and are located about a half-mile west of the SR 904 Cheney/Four Lakes interchange.

During construction, I-90 will be reduced to one lane in each direction and the legal speed limit will be reduced. Drivers will notice a smoother ride when work wraps up later this summer.

We've also started construction on our Spokane metro [paving project](#). There will be lane restrictions from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekdays in Spokane from the Division Street Interchange to the Havana Street overpass (mileposts 281 to 285). Also there will be intermittent on and off ramp closures for paving. Expect work through Labor Day.

Construction complete on I-90 floating bridge express lanes; next up - westbound mainline in July

Thanks to good weather and swift construction crews, work on the I-90 floating bridge express lanes wrapped up Saturday, May 16 and lanes reopened to traffic a week sooner than previously

scheduled. The Monday morning commute was closer to normal with buses and carpools able to use the [I-90 floating bridge express lanes](#).

Drivers are advised to stay prepared for the next closure. We saw travel times between 30 and 60 minutes from Issaquah to Seattle during this project, and drivers who traveled before 7 a.m. helped shorten the commute-time backups. Changing driving habits will be crucial for drivers who want to avoid even longer backups expected July 5 through 28 when we close all westbound lanes of the I-90 floating bridge. We'll be shifting all westbound traffic into two express lanes.

Drivers are encouraged to talk to their employers now regarding flexible scheduling, working from home and vacation time. We've also extended the deadline for new vanpoolers to get [three months free](#). If Bike to Work Day is on your mind, remember biking across the I-90 bridge will be a great alternative to slogging through traffic in July. We're building two temporary [bicycle bridges](#) around the construction zones to keep the I-90 path open.

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