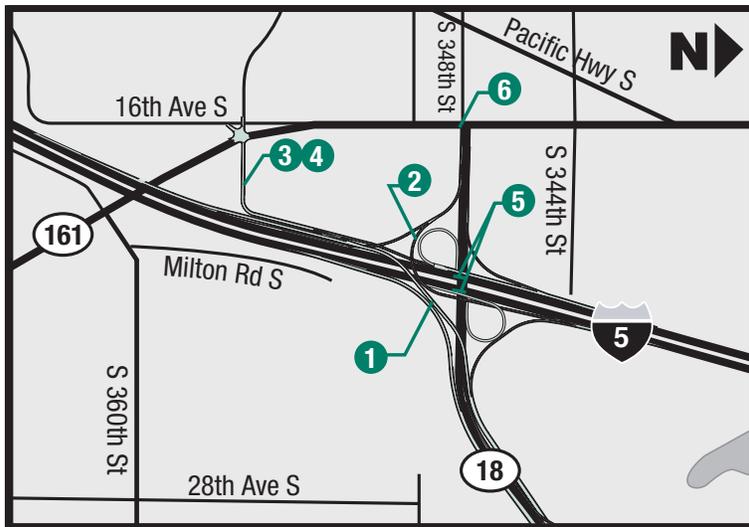


## I-5 - SR 161/SR 18 Triangle Project Update



Increased population growth in south King County and north Pierce County has created severe congestion and safety problems, and traffic will increase as nearby communities and businesses continue to grow. In 2003 the Washington State Legislature included the I-5 - SR 161/SR 18 Triangle project in the Nickel Funding Package. The Nickel Package provides funding to the region's transportation priorities through a five-cent gas tax increase. As a regional priority, the project is being designed to improve travel times and address safety concerns.

### WSDOT Selects the Preferred Alternative

The January 2005 Project Update discussed the key steps taken to develop improvement alternatives for the Triangle area. In summary the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has:

- Held a public workshop to present five potential improvement alternatives
- Developed seven additional alternatives based on studies and interviews within the local community
- Conducted a series of interviews with local communities, businesses, and environmental groups
- Used computer modeling to compare how well each alternative improves travel times, freeway operations, and safety
- Reduced the total number of project alternatives being considered from twelve to three

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by contacting the event sponsor, usually two weeks before meeting's date. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service, or Tele-Braille at 7-1-1, Voice 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to the event sponsor's phone number.

**Title VI Statement to Public:** It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

Most recently, WSDOT evaluated the three remaining alternatives using a set of objective criteria. As a result of this evaluation, WSDOT has selected a preferred alternative that will be studied in a more detailed environmental analysis.

### What is the Preferred Alternative?

The preferred alternative (also known as Alternative W4) replaces two of the existing cloverleaf loop ramps with direct access flyover ramps, and increases the number of lanes where there are high traffic volumes. Interchange improvements and attributes provided by the preferred alternative include:

- 1 Replacing the existing single-lane northwest loop ramp with a new two-lane flyover ramp for westbound SR 18 to southbound I-5 traffic
- 2 Replacing the existing southeast loop ramp with a new direct access flyover ramp for eastbound SR 18/South 348th Street to northbound I-5 traffic
- 3 Providing direct access for southbound I-5 to southbound SR 161 traffic via new ramp at South 356th Street
- 4 Providing direct access for eastbound SR 18 to southbound SR 161 traffic via new ramp at South 356th Street
- 5 Eliminating the existing high accident locations along I-5 caused by short weave segments

- 6 Alleviating traffic congestion at the South 348th Street/SR 161 intersection by removing a significant number of left turn movements

More information about the project and graphic displays of the preferred alternative can be accessed at the project's web site <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5sr18sr161ic/>

### How Did We Select the Preferred Alternative?

WSDOT used a detailed screening process to study the attributes of each of the alternatives. The screening process evaluated twenty-eight criteria, which were grouped into seven main categories. Screening categories were:

- Geometry
- Right of Way
- Land Use/Social Effects
- Environmental Effects
- Construction
- Maintenance of Traffic
- Traffic Operations and Safety

Alternative W4 received the top score in five of the seven categories in addition to receiving the highest total score. Alternative W4's ability to maintain most of its improvements within the existing right-of-way proved to be a

*Continued*

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.  
WATCH IT WORK.**

**Information:**  
Bruce Nebbitt  
WSDOT Project Manager  
(206) 464-1363  
[nebbieb@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:nebbieb@wsdot.wa.gov)  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5sr18sr161ic/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5sr18sr161ic/)

PRRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT #1445

Washington State  
Department of Transportation  
Northwest Region  
Pioneer Square Office, MS 130a  
401 Second Ave South, Suite #300  
Seattle, WA 98104-2887



# Triangle Newsletter

Spring 2005



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

## Timeline

### 2004

- April Develop alternatives
- June Public scoping meeting
- July-August Stakeholder interviews
- Fall Analyze additional alternatives

### 2005

- January Narrow alternatives
- February Select preferred alternative
- March Public open house
- Spring Begin environmental analysis
- Fall Begin preliminary design

## What's Inside?

WSDOT recommends a Preferred Alternative to address congestion and safety in your area/neighborhood.

Updates on the:

- Preferred alternative
- Next steps
- How you can participate

## Open House

Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 4 to 7 p.m.  
Todd Beamer High School – Library  
35999 16th Avenue S.  
Federal Way, WA 98003



You are invited to talk with project staff, view displays, and share your comments on the preferred alternative.

You can submit written comments at the open house, via U.S. Mail, or via e-mail.

*Continued from page 1*

significant factor. By primarily staying within existing right-of-way, this alternative was able to minimize disruption to the community, businesses and the natural environment.

## What's Next?

WSDOT will begin environmental studies in April 2005 and more detailed design will begin in the fall. WSDOT will be summarizing the environmental studies in a NEPA/SEPA Environmental Assessment (EA), which will describe the project's benefits; its environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. WSDOT will issue the EA in the Fall of 2006. The funds now available for the Triangle Project will allow us to finish the EA but do not cover the cost of purchasing property, completing the final design plans nor building the improvements.

## How Can You Get Involved?

We invite you to attend a community Open House Wednesday March 30, 2005. At the Open House you will be able to talk with project staff, view displays of the Preferred Alternative, and make comments. Your questions and concerns will help us to further refine the preferred alternative to ensure it addresses the area's congestion and safety problems.

There are a number of ways to stay informed and get involved in the Triangle project. You can:

- Attend the March Open House
- Request a presentation about the project for your group or organization
- Visit the project website, <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5sr18sr161ic/>
- Sign-up for e-mail updates
- Send written comments via e-mail or U.S. Mail

To schedule a presentation, sign-up for e-mail updates, or send your comments, please contact:

Bruce Nebbitt, WSDOT Project Manager  
401 Second Avenue South, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98104-2887  
Phone: 206/464-1363  
E-mail: [nebbieb@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:nebbieb@wsdot.wa.gov)