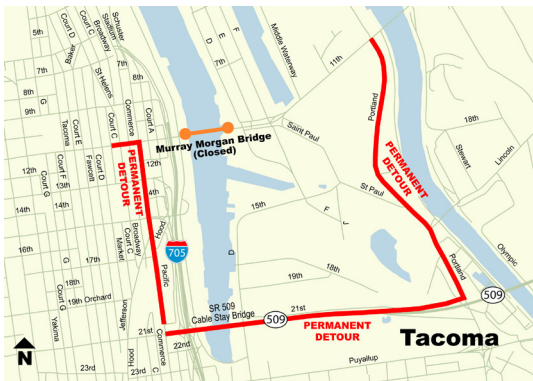




# Safety Concerns Prompt Closure of Murray Morgan Bridge To Vehicular Traffic



Tideflats access via SR 509

AFTER YEARS of working closely with city of Tacoma officials to keep the bridge safely open to traffic, the Washington State Department of Transportation announced today that the Murray Morgan Bridge will close to all vehicular traffic effective immediately.

During the past few weeks WSDOT bridge engineers have been conducting a comprehensive inspection of the bridge. They found additional structural deterioration and determined that the bridge must be closed to vehicular traffic to ensure public safety. WSDOT will still allow pedestrians and bicyclists to use the bridge for now.

The decision to close the 94-year-old bridge to vehicular traffic is years in the making. In 2002, WSDOT imposed a 10-ton weight limit on the bridge and reduced it from four lanes to two to prohibit all heavy vehicles, except emergency response vehicles, from crossing the bridge. The exemption for emergency response vehicles is no longer allowed due to concerns about the bridge structure.

### WSDOT continues to work in a partnership with the city and community

The decision to close the bridge was a difficult one given the bridge’s historic past and the high level of interest from local residents to keep it operational. We understand that the corridor between the tide flats and downtown Tacoma is important to the city’s economic development plans and will continue to work with the city and community to identify opportunities to improve the corridor.

For more information visit:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Regions/Olympic/MurrayMorganBridge.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Regions/Olympic/MurrayMorganBridge.htm)  
or, contact

*Lisa Murdock,*  
OLYMPIC REGION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, 360 357-2789

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