

South King County Projects Update

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Major southbound SR 167 on-ramp closure this weekend

Drivers wanting to get on southbound SR 167 in Renton this weekend may encounter a detour [[link to news release.](#)] Crews will close the on-ramp from SW 43rd Street/S. 180th Street from 10 p.m. Friday, July 27 to 5 a.m. Monday, July 30. When it's reopened Monday morning, drivers will have more room to accelerate before they merge onto southbound SR 167. Later this summer crews will also widen the ramp and add a ramp meter and HOV bypass lane.

The two-mile detour route will take drivers south on East Valley Highway/84th Avenue S. to S. 212th Street, where they can rejoin SR 167. The detour could add up to ten minutes to your trip.

A new, safer off-ramp from northbound SR 167 to Ellingson Road

The exit ramp from northbound SR 167 to Ellingson Road in Pacific is now safer for drivers. Crews recently [wrapped up a project](#) to add a new right turn lane and a signal. These improvements will reduce collisions, relieve congestion, and help drivers travel through the intersection more quickly.

US 12 near White Pass will stay closed this weekend

Rocks the size of refrigerators are forcing us to keep [US 12 near White Pass](#) closed. Thursday afternoon, during a routine construction closure, a huge rock was loosened but crews could not safely break it loose. Geotechnical engineers have determined the slope above the roadway isn't stable enough for drivers to safely pass through. A 13-mile section of US 12, from the White Pass summit to SR 123, will stay closed until the slope is stabilized. Due to the dangerous nature of the work, the roadway might not reopen until early next week. Eastbound drivers who want to enter Mt. Rainier National Park can do so from the Stevens Canyon Road entrance, just north of US 12 on SR 123.

Summer snowplowing for WSDOT crews

Would you believe some WSDOT crews have spent the past three weeks knee-deep in snow? [Artist Point](#) opens Saturday after crews finish [clearing snow](#) from the upper parking lot that marks the east end of Mount Baker Highway, more than 5,000 feet above sea level.

When crews started clearing the 2.5 miles of highway July 2, snow was 20 feet deep in the parking lot. Warm weather in July melted the snow, helping them make quick progress. The section of highway closes every year after the first significant snowfall, usually in October, and usually reopens in July. The U.S. Forest Service reports [trail conditions](#) on its Web site.

Two weeks until major I-5 project; deadline to start a vanpool extended

Time is ticking until the [major construction project](#) begins on I-5 south of downtown Seattle. We will close all but two or three lanes of northbound I-5 from Spokane Street to I-90 around the clock.

Have you come up with a plan to help cope with the congestion? King County Metro is giving you more time to sign up for a vanpool. Now through Aug. 3, you can start a vanpool for \$45 with as few as five participants.

Visit our [Web site](#) for tips on making and testing your alternate commute plans. We've also set up a [new blog](#) where you can share strategies with other drivers.

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.](#)