

Thanksgiving Holiday Travel

Interstate 90 over Snoqualmie Pass traditionally experiences heavy Thanksgiving weekend traffic volumes. Holiday traffic was still busy; however, overall volumes were down this year according to the Washington State Department of transportation. Compared to the 2004 Thanksgiving weekend, Snoqualmie Pass had a decrease in vehicles by 23,687. Overall, 148,837 vehicles crossed the pass November 22 through November 26.

WSDOT personnel from around the state along with the traveling public worked together to keep traffic moving over the Thanksgiving weekend. A more prepared and conscientious public coupled with WSDOT's new strategies of shifting resources (such as plows and personnel) to improved communications with the public and media (regarding pass conditions, etc.) helped to minimize an arctic storm that might have otherwise closed the pass this holiday.

Either the storm or WSDOT's communications effort resulted in 5,000 fewer vehicles driving over the pass on Thursday (11-23-06). Avalanche control work took place Friday afternoon, and again, 5,000 fewer vehicles made the journey to cross the pass. There's no doubt however that the public took note of WSDOT's traffic predictions; Saturday's traffic volumes rose by 4,000. Despite the brief pass closure around 3 p.m. on Sunday (11-26-06), there was a reduction of 17,000 vehicles which kept traffic delays to a minimum.

For your up to date pass information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov or dial 511.