

# I-90 floating bridge repair

2009: Plan ahead – [www.wsdot.wa.gov/construction/2009](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/construction/2009)



## Round-the-clock closures in July 2009

Commuters should expect to face long delays while crews replace massive expansion joints on the I-90 floating bridge. Trips across the bridge in July could stretch to an hour or more, especially for drivers farther east.

To help avoid the worst backups, commuters can travel early, work from home, join a vanpool or carpool, or take the bus.



Expected regional backups during closure of the I-90 westbound mainline beginning July 5 - July 19.

## Round-the-clock closures

### JULY 2009

Westbound I-90 across the floating bridge closed around the clock beginning July 5 - July 19.

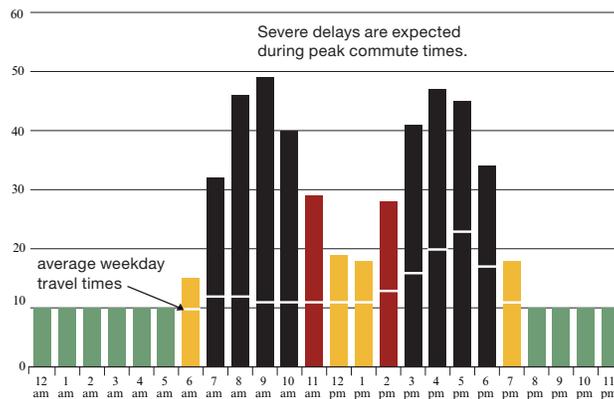
>> ALL WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL USE THE EXPRESS LANES.

Note: Drivers can still use all lanes east of Mercer Island

| JULY 2009 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | T  | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|           |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5         | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

### Westbound Bellevue to Seattle\* - Weekday Commute

Travel time (minutes) if 50 percent of drivers choose another route or do not travel



Source: WSDOT UCO Traffic - NW Region

\* Travel times are measured between NE Eighth Street at I-405 in Bellevue and University Street at I-5 in downtown Seattle.

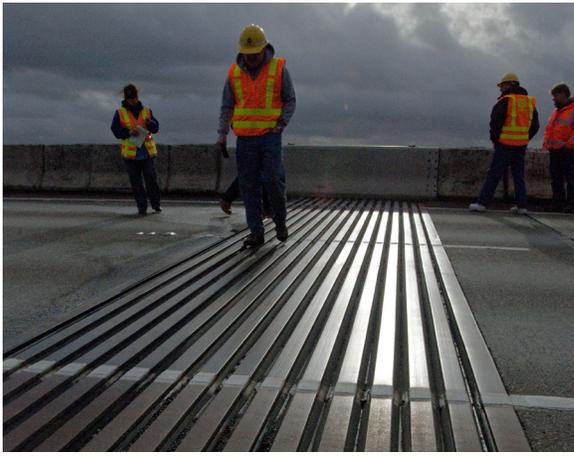
### Questions?

Call our hotline at 206-440-4444.  
Mike Murphy, WSDOT Communications  
[murphym@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:murphym@wsdot.wa.gov)  
206-440-4699

[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)  
and search "I-90 bridge repair"

### During the closures, commuters can expect:

- Significant congestion on westbound I-90. Westbound delays of 60 minutes or more are possible in July, especially during the peak commute times.
- Congestion on SR 520, I-405, I-5 and SR 522.
- Delays for all vehicles, including buses, carpools and freight.



Expansion joints allow the bridge to bend and flex with heavy traffic, changing temperatures, wind and waves.



The joints are continuing to crack and deteriorate, requiring constant maintenance.

## Construction noise

The work is unavoidably noisy and will take place around the clock. Residents might hear jackhammering, concrete saws, compressors and generators as crews break apart concrete. Crews must work at night to adhere to the construction schedule and minimize inconvenience to drivers.

### How will we reduce noise at night?

Crews will take several steps to minimize nighttime noise. The noisiest equipment will not be used between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Trucks will be equipped with broadband backup alarms, which are quieter than conventional alarms. Additionally, all trucks in the work zone will be required to have rubber bedliners and secured tailgates that don't bang.

## Expansion joint replacement

The solid steel expansion joints are extremely large and heavy. One set is 42 feet long and the second set is 65 feet long. The work must happen around the clock because each joint must be installed as a single unit.

During construction, crews will dig up the concrete, remove the old joints, lower in the new joints and tie them to the bridge with concrete. Westbound mainline joints will be replaced in July.

## Why is WSDOT replacing the expansion joints?

This is a preservation and safety project on an important route connecting King County's two biggest job centers. If the cracked joints were to suddenly fail, drivers could hit large chunks of steel. An unexpected failure could take several months to repair and force the bridge to be closed to traffic.

## What should drivers do?

- Plan ahead because the region's highways are expected to be extremely congested beginning July 5.
- Go to work early to avoid the worst of the congestion, which is expected weekdays westbound from 6 - 11 a.m. and 3 - 7 p.m. in July.
- Work from home or a satellite location, or compress your work week.
- Start a Metro vanpool: 206-625-4500.
- Find a carpool or vanpool at [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com); get a \$20 gift card.
- Leave your car at home and ride the bus.
- Commute by bicycle. WSDOT is building temporary bridges to keep the I-90 bike path open during construction.
- Limit trips across Lake Washington.

## What is WSDOT doing?

- Limiting roadwork on alternate routes during the I-90 closures.
- Paying the contractor a bonus to finish the work early.
- Warning drivers of the closures through extensive public outreach.

## What other work is WSDOT doing?

- Repairing the pavement on I-5 between Seattle and Shoreline.
- Repaving SR 520 in Bellevue and Redmond, and I-405 in Bellevue.
- Reducing congestion on SR 519 near Safeco Field.

## What other closures should I know about?

- July 19:** Seafair Triathlon closes the I-90 express lanes Sunday morning.
- July 28 - 31:** I-90 intermittently closed for Blue Angels practices and performances.

June 22, 2009

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