



South King County Projects Update

[“Have you joined the tolling conversation? Help shape tolling in the 520 corridor.”](#)

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SR 169 Green River Bridge closed; repairs in the works

WSDOT engineers and geotechnical experts are putting the finishing touches on the plan to repair the SR 169 Green River Bridge so it can reopen for drivers. While working out the plans, we have been working to address local citizens concerns one by one.

A few changes to watch for:

- We will set up three highways signs that read “Businesses are open.” These signs will be placed on SR 169 at the passenger detour at Black Diamond Road and at the commercial vehicle detour at Kent-Kangley Road. A third sign will be placed on Black Diamond Road.
- We are developing a plan to keep the detour routes clear of snow and ice. It may not be bare and wet when the snow flies, but we do expect drivers who drive for the conditions to be fine on these roads.
- Our contractors and maintenance crews will make every effort to drive through the detour routes to make sure detour and speed limit signs are standing where drivers can see them.

The Green River Bridge, also called the Kummer Bridge, was closed Nov. 18 for at least six months so crews can work to stabilize the soil supporting the bridge. The bridge is vulnerable to moving soils based on data gathered by electronic sensors in the landslide zone.

Local access is allowed up to the bridge. Signs point to two detour routes and updated [maps are on our Web site](#). Watch the [project page for updates](#).

The bridge links Black Diamond and Enumclaw and carries an estimated 9,000 trips each day including emergency services and law enforcement.

Know when to go: Thanksgiving travel tips

Thanksgiving is the busiest holiday of the year for I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass and I-5 south of Olympia through Lewis County.

We can help you find the [best times to travel](#) Washington highways over Thanksgiving weekend.

Expect stop-and-go traffic the day before Thanksgiving between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. on southbound I-5 between Seattle and Federal Way. On the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, WSDOT expects increased traffic on eastbound SR 16 over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

Plan ahead:

- Drivers can use their portable Web devices to access small-screen I-90 pass updates at www.wsdot.wa.gov/small by clicking on the "mountain pass reports" link.
- [WSDOT](#) offers online, up-to-date traffic and construction information. Also, use the 511 driver information phone line for real-time traffic, incident and closure information. TTY users can call 1-800-833-6388.
- Tacoma Narrows Bridge tips: Many drivers might not have electronic toll accounts and WSDOT expects a higher than usual number to use the tollbooths. All manual tollbooths will be open during the peak hours. Those with [Good To Go!](#) transponders are encouraged to stay in the left-hand lanes approaching the toll plaza or use the 24th Street on-ramp in Gig Harbor to avoid the toll plaza completely.
- Drivers can [look at weather forecasts and road temperatures](#) throughout the state. [Here's a list](#) of state road closures from around the state.

Metro bus routes to be on holiday schedule

Heads up bus riders: King County Metro Transit will have reduced service for the Thanksgiving holiday on both Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 – and the schedules will be different for each day.

Metro customers are encouraged to [check the schedules](#) ahead of time to make sure their routes and individual trips are operating on those days.

Go online through Nov. 30 to weigh in on tolling the Lake Washington bridges

If you have an opinion about someday paying tolls to use Lake Washington's floating bridges (SR 520 and I-90), you can take an [online survey](#) through Nov. 30.

The [520 Tolling Implementation Committee](#) wants additional public input about how tolls can help pay for a new SR 520 bridge between Seattle and Bellevue.

The committee is weighing different tolling options, including whether to toll both I-90 and SR 520 and how to spend the revenue.

Individual survey responses will be confidential. The results will be shared with the committee in mid-December. Public comments and survey results also will be included in a report to the Legislature in January, setting the stage for legislative decisions during the 2009 session.