

South King County Projects Update

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

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HOT lanes on SR 167 still attracting solo drivers

Six months since opening, the [SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project](#) is steadily growing in popularity with about 190 tolled trips northbound and 130 southbound during the busiest hour of the day in each direction.

Compared to the first week HOT lanes were open, the number of solo drivers choosing to pay for a more reliable trip has jumped 73 percent in the northbound HOT lane and 44 percent in the southbound.

So far, the project is meeting its primary goal of offering commuters an escape from rush-hour traffic without compromising commutes for buses and carpools. In late September, HOT lane users saved an average of five minutes during the busiest morning commute hour in the northbound HOT lane and three minutes during the peak afternoon hour in the southbound HOT lane.

The average toll has remained about a buck, with an average daily high of \$4.50.

HOT lanes on SR 167 is a four-year pilot project to determine how variable tolling can make the state’s highways more efficient. WSDOT converted nine miles of HOV lanes on SR 167 between Renton and Auburn to a single HOT lane in each direction. With HOT lanes, solo drivers have the choice to pay an electronic toll and escape traffic back ups when they can’t afford to be late.

For more information about HOT lanes and the latest performance information, go to the [SR 167 HOT Lanes Web site](#). Get your transponder and open an account today by logging onto the [Good To Go! Web site](#) or by calling customer service at 1-866-936-8246.

Crews replace I-405 culvert just in time for winter storms

On Halloween, crews [finished installing a new culvert](#) to carry Thunder Hills Creek underneath I-405 in Renton. Crews have been working since last December to replace a culvert that collapsed during record rain storms. See [photos of the finished culvert](#) and restored stream.

We originally expected to finish the work this summer, but were delayed when a tunnel boring machine became stuck while pushing new steel pipe sections underneath I-405. Work resumed in October after the project team developed a plan to recover the machine by tunneling from the east side of the interstate.

You can expect some [single lane closures](#) overnight as crews spend the next few weeks removing the pumps and piping that diverted Thunder Hills Creek during the repair work.

Sound Transit's rock 'n' roll train heading to AC/DC show

Sound Transit is promoting the Sounder train as a way to [ride in style to the AC/DC show](#) on Sunday, Nov. 30.

The train leaves Seattle at 5:45 p.m. with stops at Sounder stations in Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Sumner and Puyallup. It arrives at the Tacoma Dome at 6:44 p.m. The rock show starts at 8 p.m.

The return trip train leaves 30 minutes after the house lights come up.

Watch out for pedestrians, bicyclists on darker days

We've turned back the clocks and safety advocates say it's a great time to think about pedestrians and bicyclists.

Nov. 2 marked the end of daylight saving time and begins the most difficult time of year for drivers to see walkers and bikers.

The dark, rainy days of fall and winter reduce a driver's ability to see, and walkers and bicyclists should take extra efforts to become more visible. Please consider these [safety tips](#) to reduce the risk of a collision.

Of the 67 pedestrian fatalities that occurred statewide between Feb. 1, 2007 and Jan. 30, 2008, almost half (33) occurred between October and January.

Open houses next week on SR 520 tolling

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

The committee will hold three open houses this month to talk with local communities about possible tolling options across Lake Washington, including both SR 520 and I-90.

You're invited to attend and share your views. Public input received this summer led to additional tolling options that will be presented at these open houses (click links for directions):

- Wednesday, Nov. 12 at [Bellevue City Hall](#), 450 110th Ave. NE.
- Thursday, Nov. 13 at the [University of Washington's Gould Hall](#), 3949 15th Ave. NE.
- Monday, Nov. 17 at the [Stroum Jewish Community Center](#), 3801 E. Mercer Way on Mercer Island

Each of the open houses is from 3-7 p.m. with a presentation at 5 p.m.

Public input will be included in a report to the Legislature in January 2009, setting the stage for decisions during the legislative session. If you can't make it in person you also can share your thoughts [online](#).