

South King County Projects Update

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New carpool lanes now open on SR 99 in Federal Way

You should notice a faster commute the next time you drive through Federal Way. Crews have opened [new HOV lanes](#) in both directions of SR 99 between S. 284th Street and S. 272nd Street. Drivers now have a total of six lanes in the area, three northbound and three southbound. This project is WSDOT's part in a master plan to improve traffic flow and safety on SR 99 from Federal Way to the Seattle city limits by adding HOV lanes and other improvements.

Crews close lanes on SR 167 this week

Give yourself a little extra time if you plan to drive on SR 167 in Auburn and Renton this week. Crews will [close up to two lanes](#) in each direction of SR 167 between 15th St NW and S 180th St/SW 43rd St. They will be doing striping work for the [HOT Lanes Pilot Project](#).

New pavement different than drivers expected on I-5 in Seattle

You may have noticed that the old expansion joint bumps on northbound I-5 south of downtown Seattle are gone, but that the new pavement seems rough. The new pavement is intentionally grooved to help improve traction and safety, particularly in wet weather. It's called polyester concrete and although the material has been around since the early 1980s it's only now becoming more common in Washington state. [Read more about why we chose it for this project.](#)

Back to school: please drive safely

Now that school is back in session, you'll be seeing a lot of children and teenagers on the roads in the mornings and afternoons – walking, riding bikes, in school buses or driving. Please be alert, use extra caution and obey the reduced speed limits while driving near schools.

If you exceed the speed limit, you could be fined up to \$784, and this fine may not be waived, reduced or suspended. The [Washington Traffic Safety Commission](#) reports that a

child has a 90 percent chance of death if struck by a car traveling 25 to 30 miles an hour. They have an 80 to 90 percent rate of survival if struck by a car traveling 20 mph.

Also, be sure to exercise patience when school buses stop to load and unload passengers. If you travel the same route as school buses, you may want to leave yourself some extra time to allow for delays.

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.](#)