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Design? Check! Funding? Check! Contractor?

Today (February 17, 2009), WSDOT advertised the [I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project](#) for contractors' bids; construction will begin this summer. This first contract will build a detour bridge at milepost 55 near Gold Creek. Crews will also excavate materials out of Keechelus Lake to replace lake storage capacity that will be impacted as part of the larger construction set to begin in 2010. Drivers can expect visual distractions with minor delays.

For more information, contractors can visit the [Contract Ad & Award Web page](#).

Extensive construction on I-90 near Spokane coming up

Interstate 90 in the Spokane metro area will see a flurry of [construction activity](#) beginning this spring and going through the summer months. The freeway surface will be rehabilitated from the Division Street Interchange (Exit 281), east to Custer Street (MP 285). In addition, most of the Spokane area on and off ramps will be repaved as part of this job.

Major closures ahead on I-90 near Seattle

Mark your calendars. There are major closures on I-90 between Bellevue and Seattle ahead this summer that will spell congestion and back-ups for drivers.

We have maps and information at our [project Web site](#), and in the coming weeks, we will tell you how to best navigate the congestion. The best way to avoid congestion altogether is by taking other routes. Stay tuned for more details, but for now, get ready for the biggest construction season WSDOT has ever planned in western Washington.

Safety is our first priority; zombies aren't

Safety is our number one priority at WSDOT, and our electronic message signs are an important part of keeping drivers and workers safe. Last week, an anonymous hacker changed the message display on one of our signs along I-405 by breaking into the control box. The message read, "Zombies Drools." Similar sign-hacking incidents happened in Texas and Illinois last week, too.

These pranks might seem like harmless fun, but they could prove deadly if drivers are unaware of upcoming construction work. A driver unfamiliar with the area could encounter construction equipment or conditions and be seriously injured or killed. Also, our crews rely on these signs to direct traffic safely through work zones.

Both WSDOT and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) are taking this incident seriously. WSDOT is reviewing security measures on our signs owned by contractors, and the WSP has made it clear that they are not considering this a harmless prank. WSP Captain Jeff DeVere has said that anyone who tampers with a roadway safety sign risks potential felony charges.