

## South King County Projects Update

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### Motorcyclists: use extra caution on SR 167

You may notice a different kind of striping on SR 167 between Auburn and Renton, as crews install Washington state's first [high-occupancy toll \(HOT\) lanes](#). The eight-inch wide buffer stripes separate the left general purpose lane from the existing HOV lane on both directions of the highway.

Motorcyclists should use extra caution while getting in and out of the HOV lanes because the wide buffer striping has half inch-high bumps which alert drivers who veer across lanes. Unlike typical lane markings, the striping is continuous except for 1500-foot-long sections that will serve as HOT lane entrance and exit points.

### Major construction begins on SR 518 improvements

Getting home from Sea-Tac Airport will soon be easier. This week Governor Gregoire and Senator Patty Murray joined representatives from WSDOT, Sound Transit and the Port of Seattle to [kick off major construction](#) for the [SR 518 - SeaTac Airport to I-5 / I-405 Interchange project](#).

Crews will add a third lane to eastbound SR 518 from the North Airport Expressway to the I-5/ I-405 interchange. They will also rebuild and create more space between two on-ramps from the Expressway and International Boulevard to reduce backups and ease merging onto SR 518.

### Reminder: Alaskan Way Viaduct closed for inspection this weekend

A heads-up if you're planning a trip to downtown Seattle this weekend. WSDOT maintenance crews will close both decks of the SR 99 [Alaskan Way Viaduct](#) Saturday, October 13 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. between Spokane Street and the Battery Street Tunnel. Unlike previous inspections, the Battery Street Tunnel will remain closed on Saturday night. On Sunday, October 14, crews will again close both decks at 6 a.m. between Spokane Street and the Battery Street Tunnel. The southbound lanes will open at 3 p.m., and the northbound lanes will open at 4 p.m., just in time for the Seahawks game.

### Metal theft is costing taxpayers

[Metal thieves](#) are continuing to target WSDOT property, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars and damaging important highway safety equipment. Thieves recently stole copper wiring out of the conduits that power electronic message signs near Snoqualmie Pass. Safety lighting at interchanges and rest areas were also disabled. For some stretches of I-90, we have no other way to communicate with travelers, so they are literally left in the dark if these signs and lights are without power.

WSDOT has been working closely with the State Patrol to combat metal theft. Here's how you can help. If you see suspicious activity, call 911 and describe in detail what you observed. We have also created a Web site to [report suspicious activities](#).

How can you tell the difference between highway workers and possible thieves? WSDOT crews and contractors are required to wear hard hats and reflective safety vests. Also, their trucks will probably have the WSDOT logo or contractor's name/logo.

## **How are we doing on delivering 2003 and 2005 gas tax projects?**

We're continuing to move forward with the 10-year investment plan for the 2003 ([Nickel](#)) Transportation Funding Package as well as the 16-year investment plan associated with the 2005 ([TPA](#)) Transportation Funding Package. From April through June 2007 we completed 13 Nickel and TPA projects. Of the 13 projects, 11 (85%) were completed on-time and ten (77%) were completed on or under budget.

From April through June we also started construction on 19 more Nickel and TPA projects, including:

- [SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project](#)
- [SR 509/SR 518 Interchange Improvements](#)
- [SR 518/SeaTac Airport to I-5/I-405 Interchange](#)

As of June 30, 2007, 69 Nickel and TPA projects are in construction, and in the next six months, we intend to advertise for contractors on 24 more.

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