

I-90 floating bridge repair

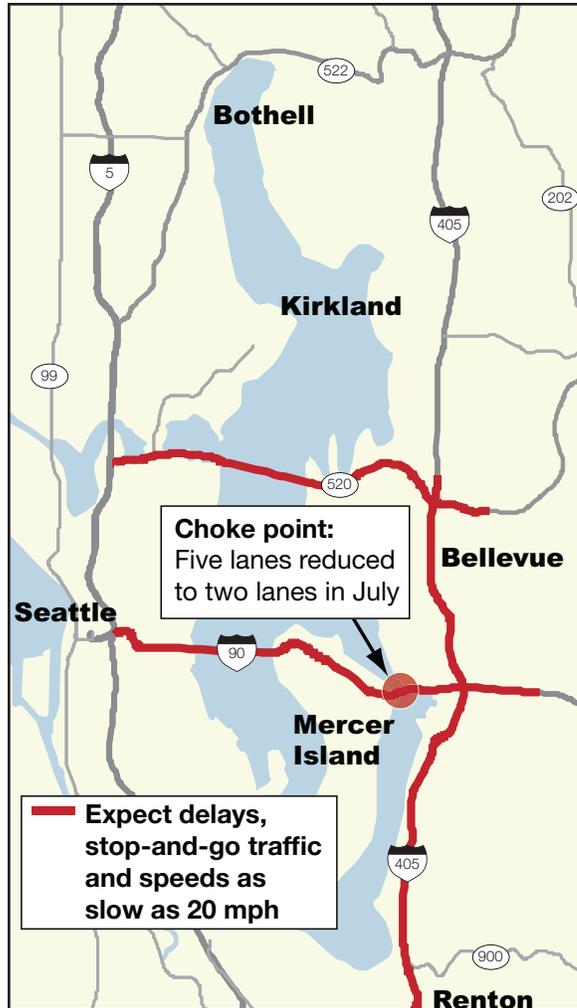
2009: Plan ahead – www.wsdot.wa.gov/construction/2009



Round-the-clock closures in May and July 2009

Commuters should expect to face long delays while crews replace four massive expansion joints on the I-90 floating bridge. Trips across the bridge in May could take 30 minutes or more. In July, delays could stretch to an hour or more.

To help prevent the worst backups, commuters can travel early, work from home, join a vanpool or carpool, or take the bus.



Expected regional backups during closure of the I-90 westbound mainline July 5- 28.

Round-the-clock closures

MAY 2009

I-90 express lanes closed around the clock May 4 - 23

>> ALL WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL USE THE MAINLINE.

MAY 2009						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JULY 2009

Westbound I-90 across the floating bridge closed around the clock July 5 - 28

>> ALL WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL USE THE EXPRESS LANES.

NOTE: Drivers can still use all lanes east of Mercer Island

JULY 2009						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

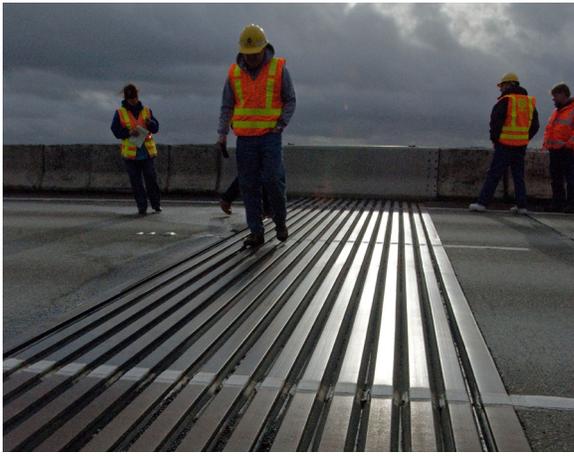
During the closures, commuters can expect:

- Significant congestion on westbound I-90. Westbound delays of 60 minutes or more are possible in July.
- Congestion on SR 520, I-405, I-5 and SR 522.
- Delays for all vehicles, including buses, carpools and freight.

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www.wsdot.wa.gov
and search "I-90 bridge repair"



Expansion joints allow the bridge to bend and flex with heavy traffic, changing temperatures, wind and waves.



The joints are continuing to crack and deteriorate, requiring constant maintenance.

Construction noise

The work is unavoidably noisy and will take place around the clock. Residents might hear jackhammering, concrete saws, compressors and generators as crews break apart concrete. Crews must work at night to adhere to the construction schedule and minimize inconvenience to drivers.

How will we reduce noise at night?

Crews will take several steps to minimize nighttime noise. The noisiest equipment will not be used between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Trucks will be equipped with broadband backup alarms, which are quieter than conventional alarms. Additionally, all trucks in the work zone will be required to have rubber bedliners and secured tailgates that don't bang.

Expansion joint replacement

The solid steel expansion joints are extremely large and heavy. One set is 42 feet long and the second set is 65 feet long. The work must happen around the clock because each joint must be installed as a single unit.

During construction, crews will dig up the concrete, remove the old joints, lower in the new joints and tie them to the bridge with concrete. Express lane joints will be replaced in May and westbound mainline joints in July.

Why is WSDOT replacing the expansion joints?

This is a preservation and safety project on an important route connecting King County's two biggest job centers. If the cracked joints were to suddenly fail, drivers could hit large chunks of steel. An unexpected failure could take several months to repair and force the bridge to be closed to traffic.

What should drivers do?

- Plan ahead because the region's highways might be extremely congested in May and July.
- Go to work early to avoid the worst of the congestion, which is expected weekdays westbound from 6 - 11 a.m. and 3 - 7 p.m. in July.
- Work from home or a satellite location, or compress your work week.
- Start a Metro vanpool by July 1 and get 3 months for free: 206-625-4500.
- Find a carpool or vanpool at RideshareOnline.com; get a \$20 gift card.
- Leave your car at home and ride the bus.
- Commute by bicycle. WSDOT is building temporary bridges to keep the I-90 bike path open during construction.
- Limit trips across Lake Washington.

What is WSDOT doing?

- Limiting roadwork on alternate routes during the I-90 closures.
- Paying the contractor a bonus to finish the work early.
- Warning drivers of the closures through extensive public outreach.

What other work is WSDOT doing?

- Repairing the pavement on I-5 between Seattle and Shoreline.
- Repaving SR 520 in Bellevue and Redmond, and I-405 in Bellevue.
- Reducing congestion on SR 519 near Safeco Field.

What other closures should I know about?

June 20 - 21: Annual maintenance closure of the SR 520 floating bridge.

July 28 - 31: I-90 intermittently closed for Blue Angels practices and performances.

April 20, 2009

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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