

# I-405 / NE 195th St to SR 527 - NB Auxiliary Lane Project

## Overview

WSDOT will build a new northbound auxiliary lane on I-405 between NE 195th Street and the SR 527 interchange. Afternoon congestion in this area is heavy with the commuters heading north from the Bellevue and Kirkland areas, as well as drivers headed to the University of Washington Bothell campus and nearby business parks.

\$40 million in Federal stimulus funding has been identified for construction of this project. WSDOT conducted a benefit cost analysis and found this project to exceed a 4:1 benefit to cost ratio by reducing travel times for users. The congestion relief benefits far outweigh the costs.

## Project Benefits

**Safety.** Increasing safety is one of our top priorities.

- Improves traffic flow in a section of I-405 where more than 100 crashes have occurred in the past three years.
- 84 percent of the collisions in this area are congestion related.
- Reduces congestion-related collisions – In this area 60 percent of the collisions occur in the outside lane as a result of stop and go and weaving traffic entering and exiting the freeway between the NE 195th St and SR 527 interchanges. New capacity between these highly traveled interchanges will help alleviate these congestion-related collisions in this outside lane.

**HOV/Transit Performance.** Improves HOV and transit speed and reliability.

- Today slow speeds in the general purpose lanes slow the HOV lane, impacting both HOV and transit travel. The new auxiliary lane will result in better HOV and transit operations.
- This project will benefit this heavily used transit corridor, with more than 50 buses a day using this section of freeway.

### Congestion Relief.

- Increases speeds by 25 to 30 mph during peak-hour travel time.
- Helps fix the bottleneck on northbound I-405 between NE 195th Street and SR 527, improving traffic flow.
- Increases both HOV and general purpose lane speeds.
- Time saving user benefits outweigh the project cost by more than a 4:1 ratio.

**Environment.** This project is designed to avoid or minimize impacts to the environment.

- Improves air quality due to elimination of stop-and-go traffic.
- Very minimal impacts to wetlands and streams. Enhanced mitigation will be provided at Kelsey Creek.
- Provides state-of-the-art stormwater treatment for the new lane and runoff, which is not currently treated, as well as retrofitting - equivalent to 200 percent of the new pavement.

### Jobs.

- This shovel-ready project, part of the economic stimulus package, is expected to deliver approximately 400 direct jobs immediately to the local Puget Sound economy.

## North Corridor



*The afternoon commute on I-405 near the Canyon Park Freeway Station.*

## The End Result

Commuters will have a new lane to help reduce congestion on I-405 heading north in the afternoon. The NE 195th Street to SR 527 project will begin construction by fall 2009.

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## Project Web site:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I405/NE195thToSR527NB/>