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Progress on SR 169 Green River Bridge repairs

Crews have started excavation work on the south end of the SR 169 Kummer Bridge. An ancient landslide was putting too much pressure on the bridge and forcing it to move, creating an unsafe condition.

Tri-State crews have excavated a large section of soil and will continue to excavate through Dec. 21. That's when we expect phase one of this project to be complete.

To track our progress with pictures, please [bookmark this page](#). We are trying to post new pictures several times a week.

We continue to work with King County, local residents and local businesses to address noise, traffic and economic impact issues as best we can.

Many have called and asked if we can pick up the pace of the work. Please know that we are working as quickly as we can and we are just as eager as you are to get in, get the work done and get out. We understand this is a terrible hardship and inconvenience. In the next month, we expect to have a contract to reinforce the south pier and you should see workers on that part of the project in February.

We still hope to wrap the work up and put traffic back on the bridge by June. Local access is allowed up to the bridge. Signs point to two detour routes and updated [maps are on our Web site](#). Watch the [project page for updates](#).

Video: How to chain up for snow

With [winter weather and snow expected this week](#), it's a good time to learn or review how to chain up your car. We made a [short how-to video](#) showing the basic steps for putting chains on your car and posted it on YouTube. After watching that, you can go to our Web site to [see more driving tips and what the rules and conditions are for the mountain passes](#).

Metro transit applying lessons learned from winter weather

King County Metro learned a few things after the big snow storms that hit during the middle of the commute in 2006.

For one thing, it's hard to put chains on 1,300 buses when they're on the road. The challenge helped the agency tighten up its adverse weather plan and improve communication.

Metro tried out a few ideas last year and will use them again this year. When bad weather strikes, [more information is included on the Metro Web site](#). The agency uses chained-up bus shuttles to serve steep hilly areas such as Queen Anne Hill. Snow plow routes are better synched up with bus routes and WSDOT has an agreement to tow stuck buses more quickly from local freeways.

Reminder for bus riders: Head for bus stops on main arterials or at major transfer points such as malls, colleges, park-and-ride lots, or transit centers. Also, buses often are unable to stop for passengers on inclines, so wait at bus stops at the very top or very bottom of hills. Find bus reroute information at [Metro Online](#), or by calling the Customer Information Office at 206-553-3000. The King County Road Services Division also [posts its road closure information online](#).

Feedback wanted on possible Auburn bypass

We want to hear from you if you use State Route 164 or State Route 18 to commute to work or school, drive to shopping, or attend events at the Muckleshoot Casino or White River Amphitheatre.

As a result of our [SR 164 Route Development Plan](#), WSDOT was asked by the Legislature to analyze the possibility of adding a bypass between SR 164 and SR 18 in Auburn. We are currently examining how reconfiguring ramps at the SR 18/SR 164 interchange, or a potential new alignment could reduce congestion and improve emergency vehicle access in the area.

[The study](#) will provide recommendations on whether any of the improvements being considered could be carried forward into a more detailed environmental review process and eventually construction, if funding were to become available. You can visit the study's Web site [to provide feedback](#).

Westbound I-90 closed nightly at I-405

Drivers on I-90 will face detours and delays as crews close all westbound lanes nightly Monday through Thursday. Crews are getting ready to allow traffic onto a new I-405 freeway bridge over I-90. Watch the [I-405 page for details](#).

Report: Fuel prices drop, but people still driving less

We [closely monitor fuel prices](#) and how those fuel prices might affect drivers' behavior. Earlier this year, Washington and the rest of the country began to see rapid fuel price increases. WSDOT data shows that the increased fuel prices probably contributed to motorists changing their driving habits.

Meanwhile, recent drops in fuel prices have not significantly altered the overall trend toward less driving. We're still driving less than last year. [Check out the graphs](#) to learn more.

Comments, questions: Please e-mail me at switzej@wsdot.wa.gov or call 206-440-4700.

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