

Alaskan Way Viaduct **REPLACEMENT** PROGRAM



March 2016

Alaskan Way Viaduct to close for approximately two weeks for Bertha tunneling

When Bertha, the SR 99 tunneling machine, tunnels under the Alaskan Way Viaduct, WSDOT plans to close the structure for approximately two weeks. The closure will extend from the Battery Street Tunnel south to the West Seattle Bridge. The start date of the closure will depend on the rate of Bertha's progress.

WSDOT recognizes that closing a major highway will have regional traffic impacts. This is a necessary and planned step toward completing a project that will transform the city and region, and WSDOT and its partner agencies have developed a plan to prepare for expected traffic congestion.

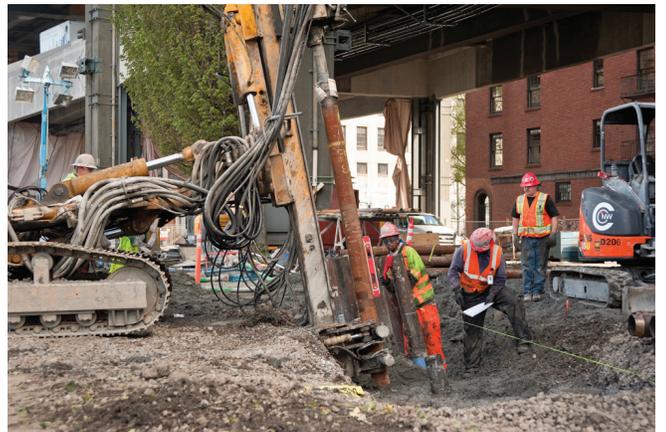
Why does WSDOT have to close the viaduct?

This temporary closure of the viaduct is precautionary. Removing vehicles from the structure will give crews better access to the viaduct to monitor it as Bertha tunnels underneath, and to quickly address any movement that might occur. Additionally, WSDOT recognizes that advertising a planned closure ahead of time, instead of conducting an unexpected and last-minute closure, will give the traveling public time to plan their trips accordingly.

How will the viaduct be protected?

The viaduct is able to withstand some ground movement, and the project has implemented a comprehensive program to monitor and address settlement.

Sections of the viaduct have been reinforced with fiber wrap, and monitoring instruments on the viaduct and surrounding ground can detect movement in real time. Additionally, underground support walls hold soil in place between the viaduct foundation and Bertha's path.



In 2012, crews installed steel micropiles underground to protect the Alaskan Way Viaduct from possible settlement during tunneling.



A monitoring device installed on the viaduct. Removing cars will give crews easier access to the viaduct to monitor for and respond to any movement they might detect.

What efforts are being made to keep traffic moving?

WSDOT and its partner agencies have developed a coordinated plan to ensure area highways and city streets are prepared for the increased traffic expected during the closure. During the closure the agencies will coordinate daily to minimize congestion through traffic management measures, proactive public outreach and media relations.

Specific efforts to keep people moving will include:

- WSDOT and SDOT will actively monitor highway and street traffic, adjusting signal timing, updating electronic message boards and deploying additional incident response teams as needed.
- King County Metro is rerouting 12 routes and deploying 22 buses to help maintain schedules.
- Police officers will provide manual traffic control at key chokepoint intersections.
- King County Water Taxi will add two extra trips to its Vashon route and will provide additional parking and connector shuttle capacity for West Seattle route passengers.

Information sharing will keep traffic moving

WSDOT will be in frequent communication with the public and our partner agencies to help drivers make informed travel choices. Here are some ways you can avoid congestion and help keep traffic moving:

Plan ahead: Expect rush hour congestion to start earlier and end later. This occurred in 2011 during the last extended viaduct closure.

Be flexible: If possible, take an alternate route or travel at non-peak times. Also consider sharing a ride in a carpool or vanpool, or shifting travel modes and take the bus, walk or bike.

Stay informed: Follow the Twitter accounts at right, use the WSDOT, SDOT and King County Metro apps, follow local traffic reports, and regularly check the official closure page (www.99closure.org) for new information.

Be patient: While congestion will increase and traffic patterns will be disrupted, the closure is a necessary part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, which is a vital transportation safety project that will transform the Seattle waterfront.



Where to find real-time information during the closure

Twitter:

- @BerthaDigsSR99
- @WSDOT
- @WSDOT_traffic
- @kcmetrobus
- @seattledot
- @SoundTransit
- Hashtag #99Closure

Apps: WSDOT, SDOT and King County Metro apps provide real-time travel information

Questions? Call or write the program:

- 1-888-AWV-LINE
- viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

Visit the official closure page:
www.99closure.org

Americans with Disabilities Act & Title VI information

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082.