

South King County Transportation News

Edition 196, Feb. 27, 2009

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Electronic speed limit signs to be tested on I-90

On Monday, drivers heading from Bellevue to Seattle on westbound I-90 will start to see some activity on the new electronic speed limit signs installed last year between I-405 and I-5. This new traffic technology is aimed at increasing safety and reducing collisions on I-90.

You can expect to see a series of test sequences — symbols or letters — on the new signs during testing. Our traffic engineers need to make sure the new signs are ready for around the clock operations. The testing will take several months and is a visible heads up that [the signs could be activated](#) and enforceable by late April.

Auburn, Federal Way safety projects receive funding

Federal money is going to help pay for a new traffic signal in Auburn and raised medians in Federal Way. These two South King County projects are among 43 safety improvement projects that received a piece of \$15 million in federal grants.

In Auburn, nearly \$400,000 will go to adding a signal at the intersection of F Street SE and Fourth Street SE. Another \$500,000 will go toward building raised medians in Federal Way on Pacific Highway South.

The money comes from the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program that we administer. In all, we awarded \$15 million in federal grants to be used by cities and counties to significantly reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. The funds have the potential to support 150 jobs around the state and will be spent where they will have the highest payoff towards saving lives and reducing serious injuries.

Learn more about the [Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program](#). See a complete [list of Safety Grant winners](#).

I-5 work: Weekend closures in Northgate, south Seattle

It's weekend No. 3 for the major repair and replacement work on I-5 through Seattle. This weekend, crews will close lanes on southbound I-5 from NE 145th Street to Northgate in North Seattle. Closures will begin at 8 p.m., today and last until 5 a.m. Monday, Mar. 2.

Hour-long delays are possible and Seattle-bound drivers should consider taking alternate north-south routes like SR 99, Fifth Avenue NE, 15th Avenue NE, 15th Avenue NW around the closure. Drivers headed through Seattle should consider taking I-405.

South King County drivers will be affected if they are heading through south Seattle for nightlife or breakfast this weekend. Northbound lane closures are planned nightly this weekend from 8 p.m. to 10 a.m. and drivers face possible delays through the workzone.

To see pictures of what it takes to do our work, [go to our Flickr site](#). At Northgate, crews will replace 18 concrete panels and close the HOV lane and the fast lane. Two lanes will remain open. This closure will not affect the express lanes, on-ramps or off-ramps. The express lanes will operate in the northbound direction during the day on Saturday and Sunday. The express lanes are closed overnight. More information is available about the weekend closures [at our Web site](#).

Construction ahead on SR 169 Green River bridge

Residents will see work crews near the SR 169 Green River bridge near Black Diamond next week. Crews working for Scarsella Brothers plan to start drilling shafts on March 5 for a new retaining wall to strengthen the sliding hillside. The bridge remains closed while we build walls to contain the unstable soils that threaten bridge supports. The work will occur daily from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Some of the work is noisy, but the noisy work will occur during the day. The work zone is filled with steep slopes and big equipment and we are warning people to please stay clear of the work zone for your own safety.

We are trying to get pictures from the site daily and plan to post them to the Flickr site so you don't have to get down into the dirt to see the progress. We'll begin posting new photos in March. [Take a look at what we've done so far](#).

Crews will drive the detour route to make sure all signs are up and pointing in the right direction. Crews expect to complete the work before the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

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