

## #405ETLS After Hours

On Tuesday, March 15, the Commission and WSDOT announced that, starting Friday, express toll lanes will be free on nights from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., weekends, and six major holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas).

### Why these times?

Since we launched the express toll lanes last September, regional drivers have made millions of trips in the express toll lanes, showing us just how much they value reliability during the weekday commute. However, we've also heard concerns from drivers questioning why the express toll lanes aren't free during periods of low traffic like nights and weekends.

After nearly six months of monitoring and analyzing traffic patterns, we feel the new hours of operations will still allow us to provide a faster, more predictable trip to transit, carpools and toll-paying customers when they need it most, while balancing traffic across all lanes during off-peak travel.

### What do drivers need to know?

This is another big change on the roadway, and we expect it may take drivers some time to get the hang of the new rules:

- **Check the signs.** The signs will display the words "OPEN TO ALL". That means drivers can enter the lanes for free without a *Good To Go!* pass or a carpool.
- **Use the designated access points.** Drivers must observe the designated access points, and are not permitted to cross the double white lines at any time. Failure to observe these rules may result in a \$136 ticket. WSDOT designed an [express toll lanes interactive map](#) to help drivers learn the access points and plan trips.
- **Direct access ramps are HOV only during off-hours.** Only transit and two-person carpools are permitted to use the direct access ramps at NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Bellevue and NE 128<sup>th</sup> Street in Totem Lake. These signs will show "HOV2+ NO PASS NEEDED". This means there will be limited exits for drivers traveling southbound through Kirkland and downtown Bellevue due to the restrictions at these two locations. WSDOT is looking at options to improve access in these areas. During weekdays, drivers will still have the option to pay a toll to use these ramps.
- **Vehicles over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight are always restricted from using the I-405 express toll lanes.**
- **Other tolled facilities operate as usual.** The SR 167 HOT Lanes and SR 520 and Tacoma Narrows bridges will operate as usual.



### What's next?

We're planning more [than a dozen changes](#) to the I-405 express toll lanes corridor to increase capacity and improve operations including:

- [Improved striping and signage](#),

- Longer access points, [including changes to the northbound I-405 access point at SR 520 happening this weekend](#), that make it easier for drivers to merge into the toll lanes,
- Improvements to the algorithm which calculates toll rates to keep the toll lanes moving, and
- New merge-and-weave lanes and hard running shoulders at key northbound I-405 chokepoints near SR 520 and SR 527.

### **Getting more information**

And finally, we anticipate *Good To Go!* customer service call volumes may increase with this and coming changes, so we encourage drivers to first look for information online at [GoodToGo405.org](http://GoodToGo405.org) and pay toll bills and set up accounts using [MyGoodToGo.com](http://MyGoodToGo.com).

We ask drivers to be patient as we continue to improve the operation of these lanes, and please continue to send us your feedback at [405carpool@WSDOT.WA.GOV](mailto:405carpool@WSDOT.WA.GOV).