



Washington State
Department of Transportation



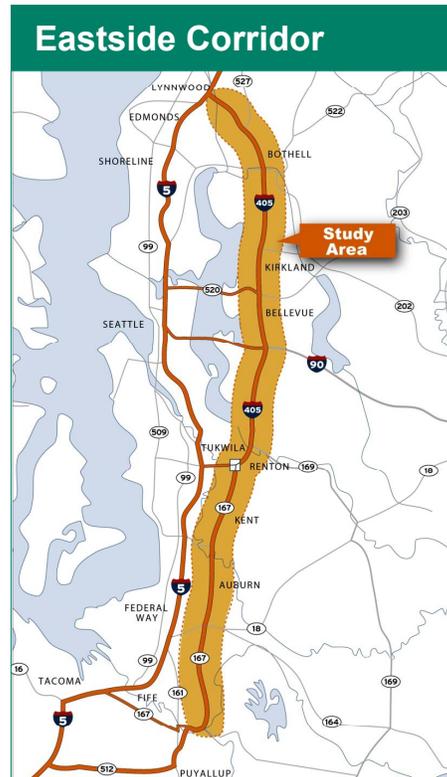
What's next for the Eastside Corridor?

August 2009

What's the vision for I-405 and SR 167?

The Eastside Corridor is the only north-south freeway alternative to I-5 in the Puget Sound region. Today, Eastside Corridor travelers experience heavy congestion for much of the day, not just during the peak commuting hours. As part of WSDOT's *Moving Washington* strategic transportation plan to address congestion, we are studying the idea of adding up to two express toll lanes on I-405 that could connect with existing HOT lanes on SR 167 to form a seamless eastside corridor from Lynnwood to Puyallup. These new lanes would be in addition to the general purpose lanes.

These new toll lanes, similar to the SR 167 HOT lanes, could reduce congestion by moving some vehicles out of the general purpose lanes and into unused space in the express toll lanes. The result is 70 percent more vehicles could move through the corridor than we have today. And, those using the express toll lanes could have a more reliable trip of 45 mph or higher that is sustainable through 2030.



The Eastside Corridor is a vision of the Moving Washington program to keep traffic moving.

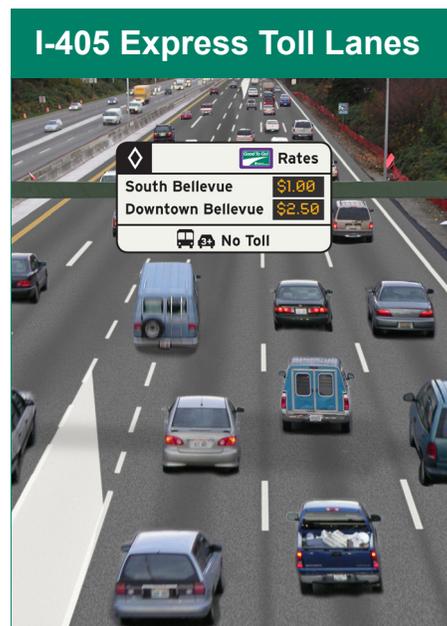
What are express toll lanes?

Express toll lanes provide toll-free express trips for carpools, vanpools and buses, and give solo drivers the option to pay a toll to use the lanes for a faster, more reliable trip when they need it most. The toll rates adjust electronically according to traffic levels to ensure that the express toll lane is free flowing (at least 45 miles per hour) even when the regular lanes are congested.

Why is WSDOT considering express toll lanes on I-405?

I-405 drivers experience heavy traffic for approximately eight hours each day. Express toll lanes help relieve congestion and generate funds that could help pay for future corridor master plan improvements. Connecting I-405 express toll lanes to the SR 167 HOT lanes creates a 50+ mile north-south Eastside Corridor Express Toll Lane System and a reliable bypass to I-5.

In 2009, the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to prepare a traffic and revenue study for the Eastside Corridor that includes a plan to operate up to two express toll lanes on I-405 and to seek input from the public. A report is due to the governor and legislature in January 2010.



This visualization shows a two-lane express toll lane concept on I-405.

What are the benefits of express toll lanes?

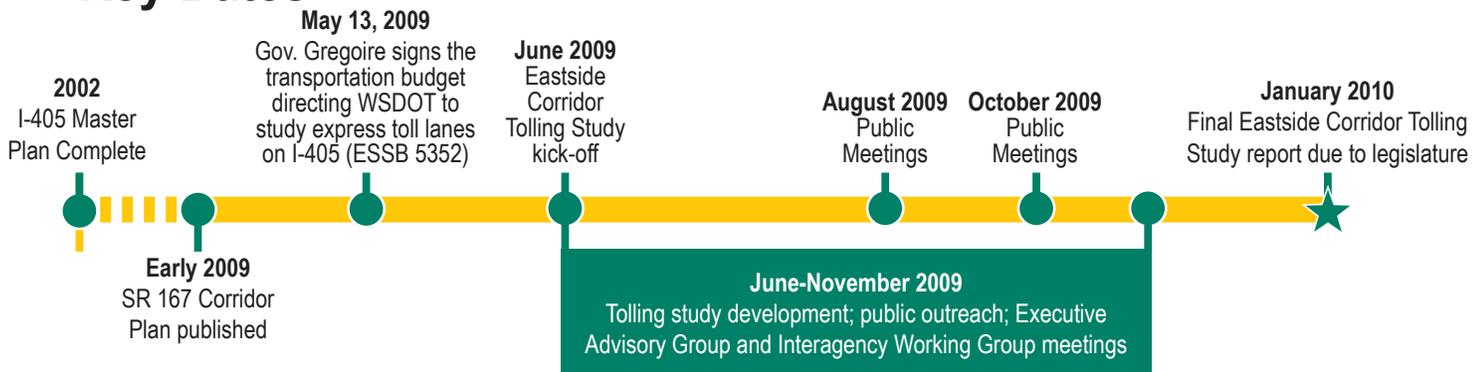
- Higher performance and reduced congestion**
 Provide a reliable, faster commute in the express toll lanes as well as the regular lanes.
- Improved transit service**
 Enhance existing transit service reliability and facilitate a bus rapid transit system, where express buses come approximately every 10 minutes.
- Financing opportunities**
 Express toll lanes generate revenue that could help fund future transportation improvements.
- Better air quality**
 Keep traffic moving with less idling and air pollution.

SR 167 HOT Lanes



The SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project opened to traffic in May 2008.

Key Dates



What's next for Eastside Corridor tolling?

Proceeding with any work on express toll lanes on the Eastside Corridor will require legislative decisions and direction. Producing a finance plan for the corridor-wide express toll lane concept requires additional traffic, revenue and financial analysis.

Next steps include:

- Engaging the public and local elected officials and staff from Eastside Corridor communities.
- Submit traffic and revenue study to legislature and Governor Gregoire by January 2010.

Find Out More

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