Bicycling Safely Through a Highway Construction Project

Highway construction zones can be a challenge when you are bicycling. Construction zones are often not designed for bicycle passage, and while a construction project can slow you down, you really have to consider your personal safety as you maneuver your way through a tangle of large highway equipment, narrow lane widths, impatient drivers and potentially poor riding surfaces.

Ask yourself, what do you do when you come across a construction project?

Detours
Sometimes, there is a well-signed, well-maintained bicycle detour to get around a project, however, sometimes you must ensure your own safety as you navigate the work zone. While detours can often be inconvenient by adding extra miles on to your trip, designated detours are specifically designed to keep bicycles out of a work area that cannot provide safe passage. Please respect “Road Closed to Bicycles” signs.

Navigating the construction site
As you approach a project, you’ll see construction signs first and then possibly flaggers. If flaggers are stationed in the area, you must follow their directions on when to safely proceed. Once traveling into the work zone, a key in safely getting through a construction site is eye contact with equipment operators. People on bicycles are not commonly seen in a construction work site, so ensuring operators see you can be a lifesaving interaction. Back up alarms on construction equipment are to warn you when these large, unwieldy vehicles with limited sight distance are coming your way. Give the operators of this equipment the attention and respect they deserve.

Expect rough conditions
You might encounter areas of gravel and/or soft shoulders, which can be difficult to navigate on skinny tires. When in doubt, walk your bike.

Always remember, if in doubt, stop and ask for directions! A good attitude and asking questions will help get you safely through a construction zone.
**I-90 Corridor - North Bend to Vantage**

Bike Detour through 2019 construction on I-90

---

**Alternate Route: about 50 miles**

*Trail Condition Disclaimer:* The John Wayne Pioneer Trail and Iron Horse Trail are typically covered with snow and hard to travel by bicycle until the snow melts. These trails feature two distinct wheel paths with hard-packed earth and occasional spots of loose gravel, large cobbles or potholes. Riders with touring bikes, mountain bikes, and hybrid/commuter bikes should be able to ride the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and the Iron Horse Trail without equipment damage, assuming a tire width of at least 28 mm (~1.10”). Racing-type road bikes are not recommended due to the risk of equipment damage. The John Wayne Pioneer Trail and the Iron Horse Trail are maintained by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. WSDOT is not responsible for equipment damage or personal injury resulting from the use of this route.