



Strategies to keep people and goods moving in and through Seattle

The Seattle Squeeze and the #Realign99 Closure 2018-2024

Commute Seattle
Employer Open House
December 7, 2018

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WSDOT

Paul Roybal,
King County Metro

Meghan Shepard,
SDOT

How we get around is about to change

Over the next five years private and public construction projects will continue to change how we move and deliver goods



Our five pillars for downtown mobility



Monitoring and managing our transportation system



Reducing the number of drive-alone trips downtown



Investing in transit and expanding access

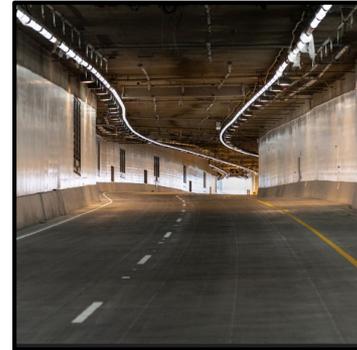


Managing the public right-of-way



Communicating with the public

Program schedule



2018

Early 2019

Tunnel preparation

Fall 2018:

- Switch Alaskan Way travel lanes west (complete)
- Complete tunnel systems testing
- Operations, maintenance and emergency responder staff training
- Preparatory tunnel on- and off-ramp work

SR 99 closure

Jan. 4:

- On- and off-ramps near stadiums close

Jan. 11:

- Full SR 99 closure begins
- Finish eight ramps to/from new tunnel
- Realign SR 99 into new tunnel
- Tunnel grand opening celebration

Tunnel opens

Feb*:

- Closure ends and SR 99 tunnel opens
- SR 99 NB off-ramp to downtown and Alaskan Way opens

Work begins

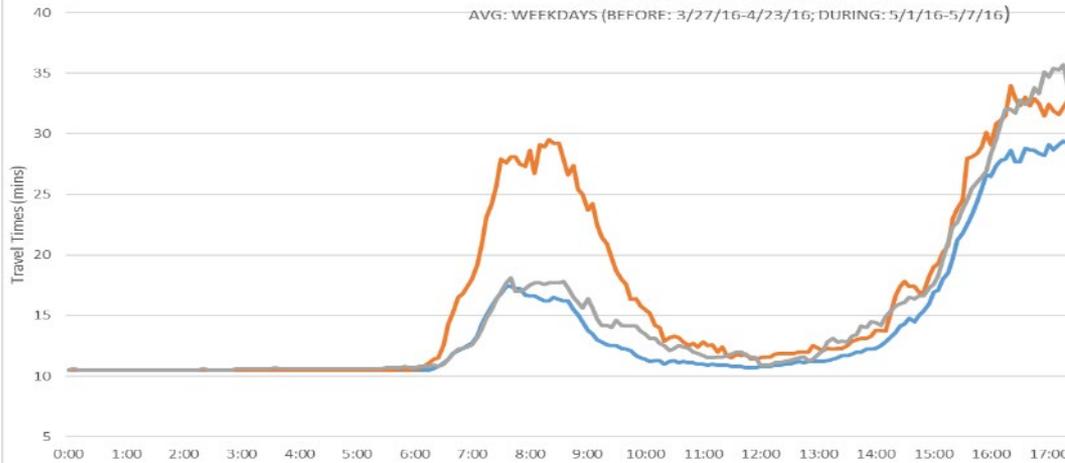
Feb*:

- Viaduct removal
- Closing and filling Battery Street Tunnel
- Rebuilding three blocks of Aurora Avenue North

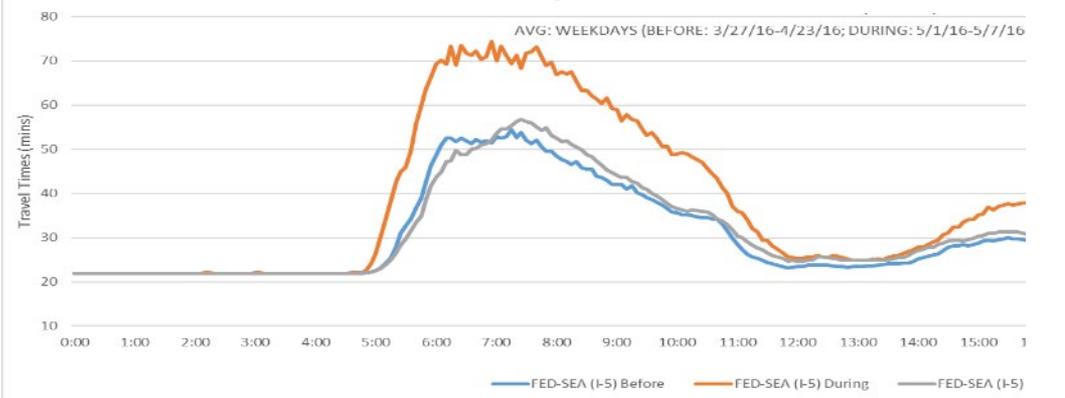
*Closure is approximately three weeks long but duration will depend on progress.

2016 SR 99 closure

Travel time: Bellevue to Seattle (I-90 westbound)



Travel time: Federal Way to Seattle (I-5 northbound)



What we experienced during nine-day SR 99 closure in 2016

- Region-wide impacts: higher travel times on I-5, SR 520, I-90
- Peak commutes started earlier and lasted longer
- More vehicles on downtown streets
- Sound Transit commuter rail ridership increased by 5 to 10%
- West Seattle water taxi ridership increased 135%, Vashon passenger ferry service increased by 27%
- Longer travel times for King County Metro buses rerouted off SR 99
- More cyclists on the road to avoid congestion

SR 99 closure and tunnel opening: get ready

Keeping people and goods moving

- WSDOT, SDOT, Port of Seattle, King County Metro, Sound Transit implementing transportation management strategies.
- Incident response teams, increased staffing in transportation management centers, signal timing plans, uniformed police officers at key intersections, additional water taxi runs, standby Metro coaches, and more.
- Actively monitoring the transportation system.

We need the public's help: make a plan for #Realign99

- Shift your travel time
- Bike or walk
- Carpool or vanpool
- Use transit, particularly light rail and King County Water Taxi
- Stay off the road: work from home, postpone discretionary trips, take time off, if you can
- Be prepared for your new route when the SR 99 tunnel opens





Feb. 2 – 3, 2019

Event agenda
99StepForward.com

Saturday

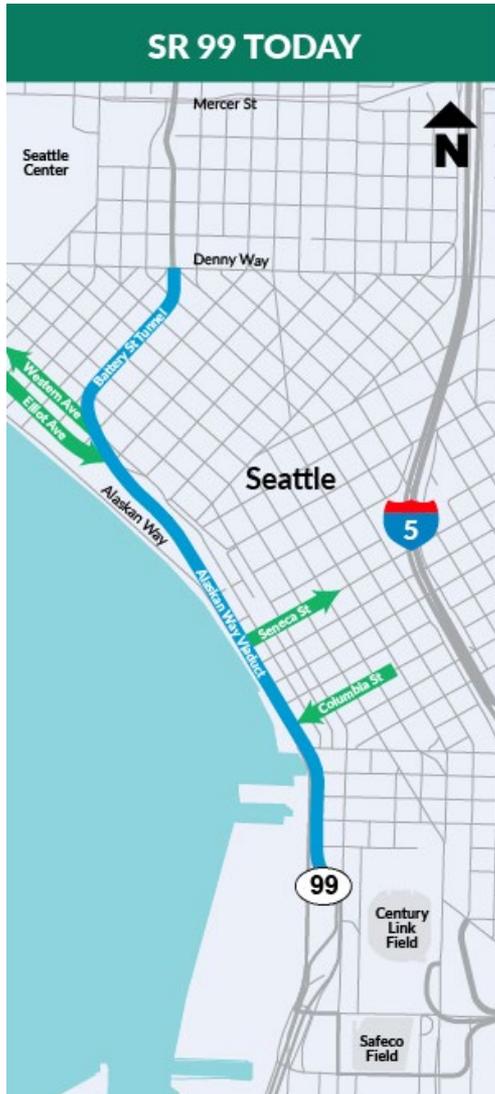
- Fun run
- Ribbon cutting ceremony
- Public festival
- Public tunnel walk/access
- Goodbye to the viaduct/
hello waterfront

Sunday

- Bike ride



Finding a new normal in ongoing changes



Opening the new SR 99 tunnel is just the start:

- Tunnel will open toll-free for a period of time.
- Traffic patterns will change because we are changing access to SR 99.
- Construction continues after the tunnel opens to drivers.

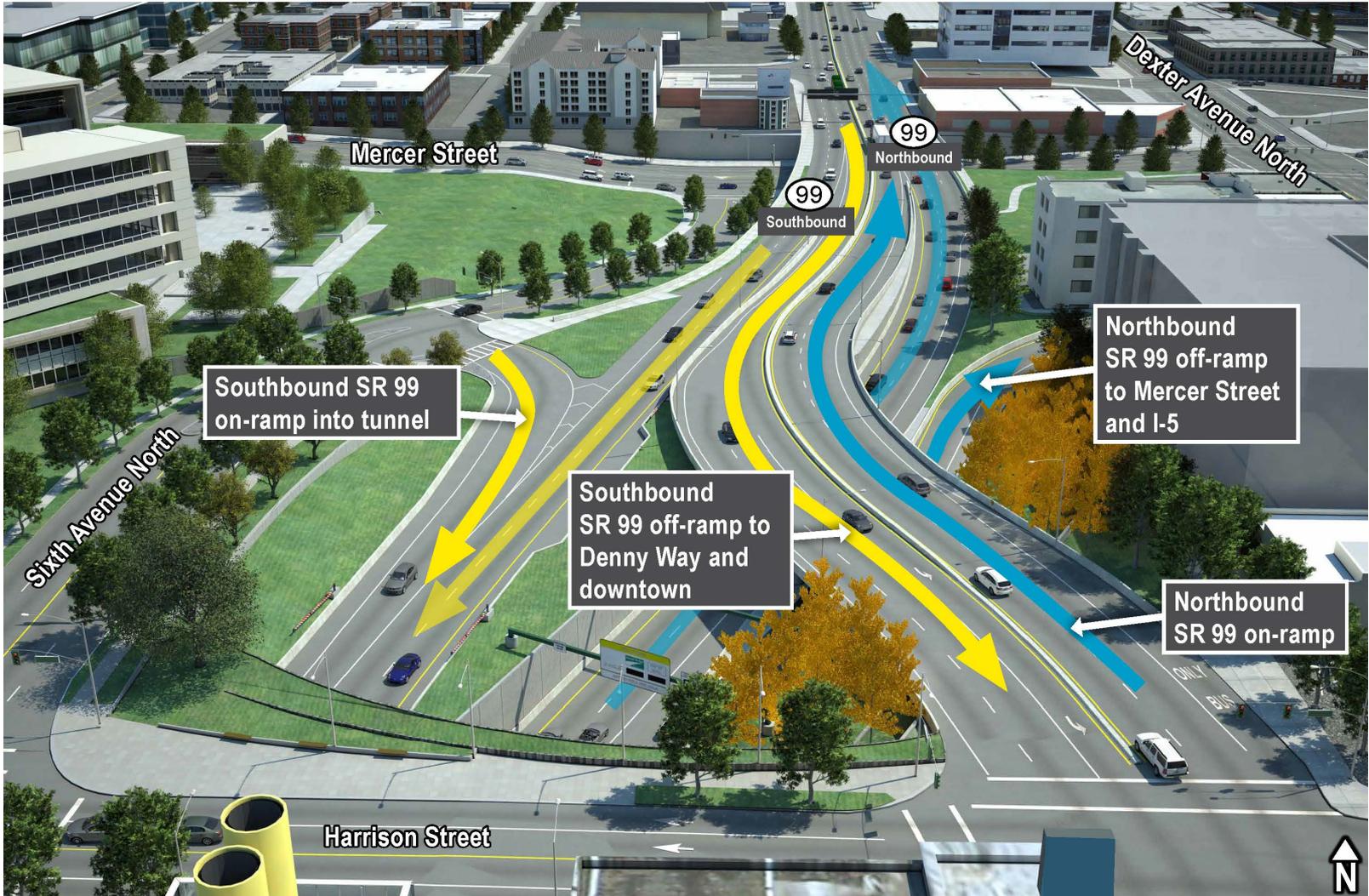
Seattle will experience ongoing change:

- It will take time before traffic patterns settle out.
- Tolls range from \$1 to \$2.25 with a **Good To Go** pass.
- Some trips will be quicker and others will be longer.
- The City will rebuild the new Alaskan Way, which will open in 2021.

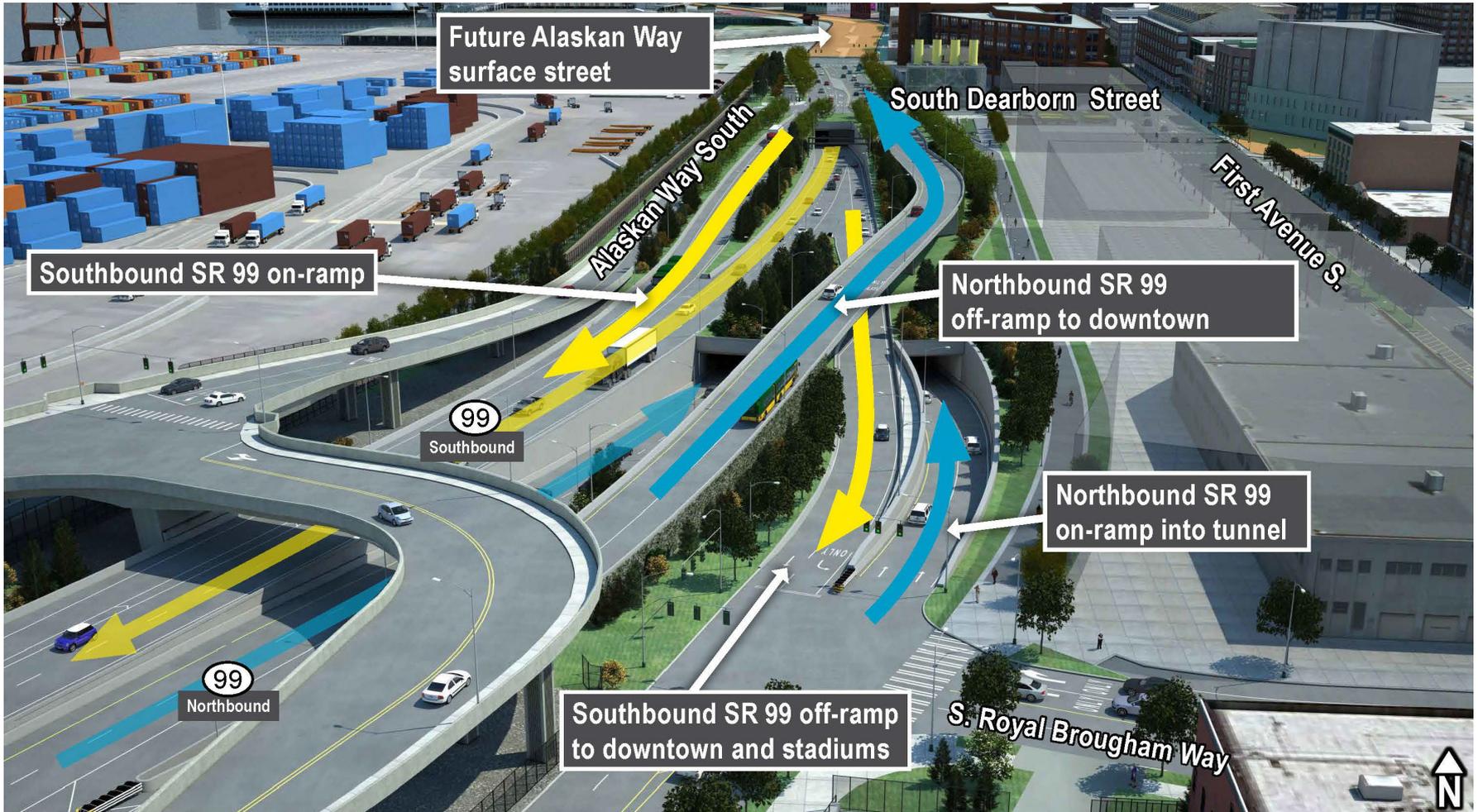
Using the new SR 99 tunnel



New SR 99 ramps at the north portal – Looking north



Opening the tunnel: Ramps at the south portal



Construction after the SR 99 tunnel opens



Viaduct removal: Approx. 6 months

Filling and sealing the Battery Street Tunnel: Approx. 24 months

North surface street connections: Approx. 15 months



Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 | 5 – 8 p.m.

Waterfront Space, 1400 Western Ave

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Waterfront Space, 1400 Western Ave

Monday, Dec. 10, 2018 | 5 – 8 p.m.

Seattle Center, Armory Loft 2, 305 Harrison St

Viaduct Removal

DROP-IN SESSIONS



King County

SR 99 closure North end transit pathways

- Aurora buses will be impacted by North Portal area work
- Routes includes E, 5, 5X, 26, 28



The information included here has been compiled by King County Metro staff from a variety of sources and **is subject to change without notice.**



King County

Southend transit pathways sequence

During AWP full Closure – Before tunnel opens

- **Duration:** 4 - 5 weeks
- **Affected routes:** 21x, 37, 55, 56, 57, 113, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, C Line

Interim pathway via 1st Ave S

- **Duration:** 9 months – 1 year
- **Affected routes:** 21x, 37, 55, 56, 57, 113, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, C Line

Permanent southend pathway

- **Duration:** Permanent
- **Affect:** When the Viaduct Demolition, Waterfront, and Columbia St 2-Way Configuration projects are complete, this pathway will use transit lanes on SR 99, Alaskan Way Surface St, and Columbia St for both ingress and egress of the Seattle CBD.



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King County

SR 99 closure transit pathways



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Water Taxi



- 10 minute ride from Seacrest Park in West Seattle
- 22 minute ride from Vashon Island to downtown
- Second vessel for West Seattle routes
- Additional 250 parking spots at Pier 2 with shuttle to Seacrest Park
- Additional parking at Harbor Ave SW and SW Bronson Way
- Dedicated Vanshare parking at Don Armeni Park
- Added shuttle service (Route 773 and 775) from the Junction and Alki Beach

Get Ready

The screenshot shows the King County METRO website. The header includes the King County logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, How do I..., Services, About King County, and Departments. The main navigation bar features icons for Bus, Bike, Rideshare, Rail, Water Taxi, and Accessible, along with links for Schedules & Maps, Fares & ORCA, and Alerts & Updates. The page title is "METRO" and the sub-header is "Dept. of Transportation Metro Transit". The main content area is titled "It's time to get ready for the SR 99 closure" and includes a video player showing a hand holding a piece of paper with a drawing of a road and a sign. Below the video, there is a paragraph of text explaining the closure and providing travel options.

King County
Search Kingcounty.gov

Home How do I... Services About King County Departments

METRO

Dept. of Transportation
Metro Transit

Programs & Projects

- Transit Corridors, Parking & Facilities
- 23rd Avenue S Reroutes
- Eastside Park & Ride Options
- Bus Hubs
- Park & Ride Partnership
- Car Share Parking
- Permit Parking
- Right Size Parking
- SR 99 Closure**
- Third Avenue Improvements
- Transit Tunnel Elevator

Metro Transit » Programs & Projects » Transit Corridors, Parking & Facilities » SR 99 Closure

It's time to get ready for the SR 99 closure

Explore your travel options

Quick links

- Work from home
- Going by bus, light rail, Sounder train?
- Water taxi
- Rideshare
- Walk or bike—your own or bikeshare
- If you need to drive

There's no way around it—getting around Seattle is going to be tricky during the SR 99 closure. Expect traffic delays and be prepared for full buses during peak travel times. Check out the travel options below that can help you get around in anticipation of the new SR 99 tunnel opening.

- Travel options that can help you get around during the SR 99 closure
- Marketing beginning in December
- Impact to buses will extend beyond the closure
- Multilingual materials showing impacts to specific routes

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/getready>

Responding to the SR 99 closure



Actively monitor and adjust traffic system; staff operations centers 24/7; deploy police at key transit intersections



Extend transit priority hours on 3rd Avenue to 6AM to 7PM; add bus trips on key Metro routes and standby coaches to maintain schedules; and provide additional Water Taxi service



Modify and schedule permitted construction work for maximum travel capacity; temporarily restrict parking



Work cooperatively with downtown Seattle employers to reduce drive alone trips; provide SR 99 consultations and support through Commute Seattle



Collaborate on a regional communications and outreach effort, including more than 100 meetings with community groups, stakeholders, and businesses



We're entering a new normal

Now – 2022

- Construction impacts surface streets from WSCC Addition construction and Key Arena redevelopment

January-February 2019

- Alaskan Way Viaduct closes 1/11. Longest highway closure in Puget Sound until SR 99 Tunnel opens about 3 weeks later

March 23, 2019

- Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel becomes light rail only, bringing 7 significant regional bus routes onto City streets

Early Summer 2019:

- Construction of the new Alaskan Way begins, lasting until 2021

As early as summer 2019:

- Tolling begins on the SR 99 tunnel, initially resulting in traffic diversion onto downtown streets.



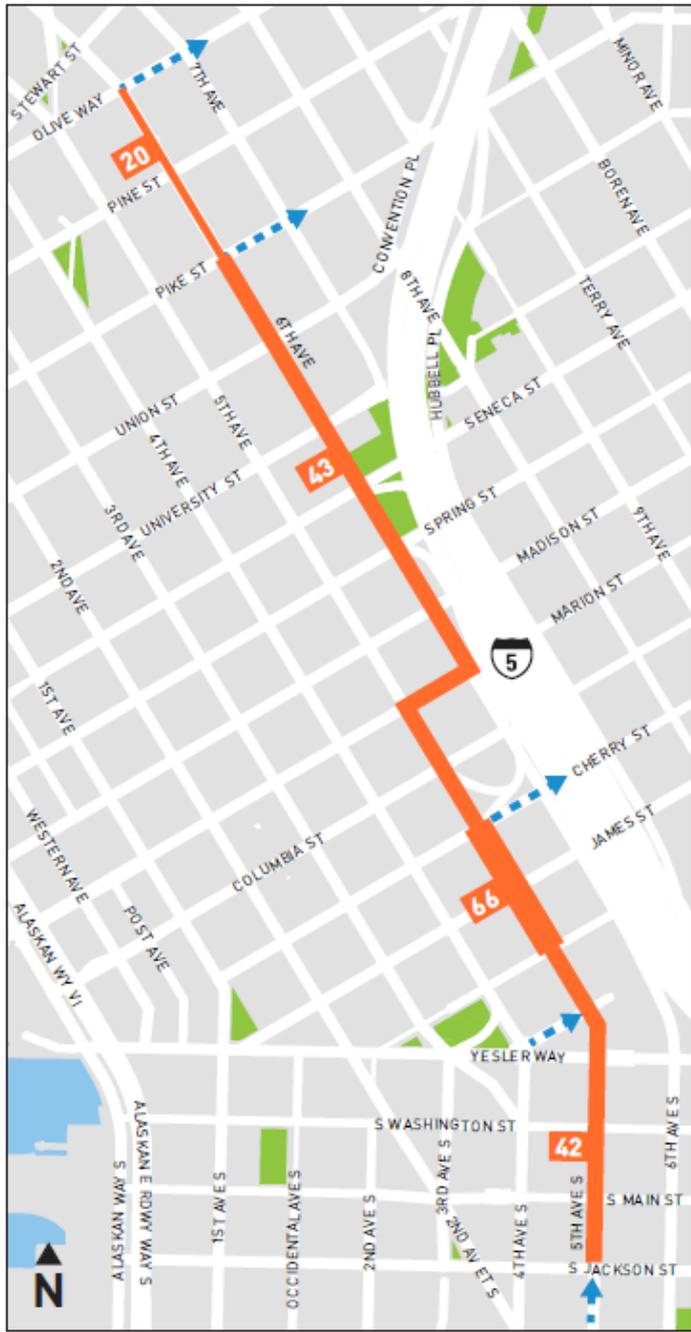
Buses out of Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel

Current Tunnel Routes	Proposed Surface Street Pathway
41 (all-day)	3 rd Ave (SB and NB)
74 (peak service only)	2 nd Ave (SB) – 5 th /6 th Ave (NB)
255 (all-day)	5 th Ave (SB) – 5 th /6 th Ave (NB)
101 (all-day)	2 nd Ave (SB) – 4 th Ave (NB)
102 (peak service only)	
150 (all-day)	
550 (all-day)	

- All buses come out of the Downtown Seattle: March 23, 2019
- **Mitigation:** Reroutes to surface streets downtown; added service hours to maintain service reliability; capital improvements to pathways and bus stops
- **Communications:** Rider alerts, street teams, social media, web presence

New northbound transit pathway on 5th and 6th Avenues

- **Effective Date:** March 23, 2019
- **Routes affected:** 76, 77, 252, 257, 301, 308, 311, 316
- **Benefits:** 4th Avenue operates quicker and more reliability; adds resiliency to system; balances transit capacity on all available downtown transit pathways
- **Communications:** Rider alerts, transit alerts to affected routes, printed materials on buses, social media



All Door Boarding Expansion

Effective Date: March 2019

Areas Impacted: Seattle, Shoreline, Vashon Island, SW King County neighborhoods

Routes Impacted: All routes using 3rd Avenue Transit Corridor, 42 routes in total

Communications: Rider alerts, information at stops, transit alerts, multi-language media, Fare Enforcement Officers, driver education





What you can do to plan and prepare

- Attend information sessions – <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/demolition>
- Stay informed and sign up for alerts – www.seattle.gov/traffic
- Change your commute – tools at www.kingcounty.gov/getready
- Are you an employer? - Contact Commute Seattle for a free consultation - <https://commuteseattle.com/sr99/>
- Whenever possible, don't drive alone
- Leave extra time
- Share information with your networks
- Be safe, flexible, creative and patient



Questions?

SDOT

Know Before You Go:

www.seattle.gov/traffic

Twitter:

@seattledot

@SDOTtraffic

Commute Seattle

Website:

<https://commuteseattle.com/sr99/>

E-mail:

SR99@commuteseattle.com

Phone:

(206) 613-3206

King County Metro

Metro Trip Planning Resources:

<https://kingcounty.gov/getready>

WSDOT

Twitter:

@BerthaDigsSR99

#Realign99

Email:

viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov



EVERY COMPANY CAN DO
THEIR PART,

COMMUTE
SEATTLE
CAN HELP.



As a Seattle employer, your action is critical. **Take these 3 easy steps** to help alleviate or avoid the most severe delays and ensure your employees can get around as easily as possible.

TAKE ACTION TODAY:

Contact us at
SR99@commuteseattle.com
or (206) 613-3206 to take
advantage of our FREE services.
Our specialists are ready to
help you plan ahead.

CONTACT COMMUTE SEATTLE

- Schedule a **FREE** consultation today!
- Get a personalized plan of action

1

STRATEGIZE AND DEVELOP YOUR PLAN

- Examine current policies
- Maximize options and info
- Boost programming
 - Pilot and tests

2

IMPLEMENT AND ENCOURAGE EFFICIENT COMMUTES

- Avoid peak travel times
- **Flexwork**
 - Bike/Walk
- Water Taxi/Bus/Train
(+ support with connecting options)
- Carpool/Vanpool
- Leverage apps

3



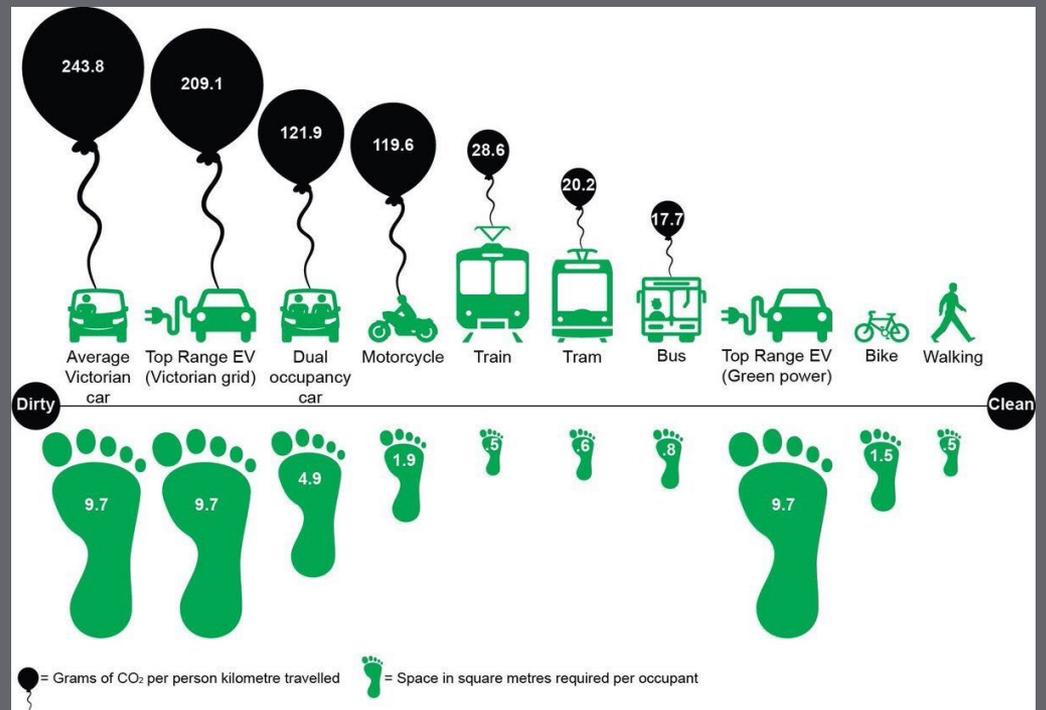
commute seattle

STRATEGIZE AND DEVELOP YOUR PLAN

- Examine current policies
 - How do your employees currently commute?
 - What options and benefits do they have?
- Maximize options and information
 - Mode-specific and geographic communications
 - Emphasis on smart commute choices
- Boost programming
- Pilot and test

IMPLEMENT AND ENCOURAGE EFFICIENT COMMUTES

- Avoid peak travel times
- Reduce road space taken
 - Flexwork*
 - Bike/walk
 - Water taxi/bus/train
 - Carpool and vanpool



FLEXWORK

What is Flexwork?

- **Teleworking:** work remotely
- **Flexible Scheduling:** shift travel times to avoid peak trips
- **Compressed Work Weeks:** four 10-hour work day
- **Satellite office:** establish a co-working space

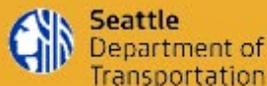
Why Flexwork?

- **Sustainability**
- **Worker Satisfaction**
- **Cost Savings**
- **Work-Life Balance**

Commute Seattle and partners are ready to help you implement and leverage these options.



MOVE THE NEEDLE: JOIN THE **FLEXWORK** CHALLENGE TODAY!



Help your employees prepare for the SR99 viaduct closure by promoting **smart commute choices**. Participating employers will be featured on Commute Seattle's website, and employees from participating businesses will be eligible to win great prizes!

COMMUTE SEATTLE CAN HELP!

Employers:

- **Commute Trip Reduction**
 - Comprehensive regulatory support for businesses affected by CTR law
- **ORCA Business Programs**
 - ORCA Passport
 - ORCA Choice
- **Pre-Tax**
 - Free to set up and administer
 - Cost savings for business and employees

Property Managers:

- **Transportation Management Programs (TMP)**
 - TMP Surveys and Program Reports
 - Mitigate traffic congestion and parking impacts by reducing SOV trips
- **Relocation Services**

CONTACT US TODAY:



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Viaduct Closure Resources:
SR99@commuteseattle.com

ORCA Business Programs:
ORCA@commuteseattle.com

Pre-Tax Commuter Benefits:
Pre-Tax@commuteseattle.com

Commute Trip Reduction
CTR@commuteseattle.com

Transportation Management Plan
TMP@commuteseattle.com

Open Q&A



Seattle
Department of
Transportation



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King County