April 2012

South Spokane St Viaduct Widening Project

PROJECT COMPLETION EXPECTED LATE SUMMER 2012

The Spokane Street Viaduct Widening Project is now approximately 85% complete! The single largest element of the project - the new viaduct structure - in fact is already in use, as - westbound traffic was moved onto it shortly before the end of December, 2011. An earlier phase of the project – the new eastbound off-ramp at Fourth Avenue - was opened to motorists in August, 2010.

Major Work Remaining

The major project elements still to be completed include:

- Westbound combined on-/off-ramp at First Avenue S
- Repair and repaving of the bridge deck on the old viaduct structure
- Reconstruction of the intersections of Spokane and 1st Avenue and Spokane and East Marginal Way.

All major construction is expected to be complete by the end of summer at which time all ramps and roadways will be fully open for use.

Upcoming Temporary Shift of Eastbound Traffic onto New Structure

As early as this coming Thursday morning, April 12, all eastbound traffic will be moved onto the new structure, temporarily joining the two lanes of westbound traffic. It is necessary to move traffic off of the old viaduct so that its bridge deck can be repaired and resurfaced before eastbound traffic is returned to it. While all traffic is temporarily on the new viaduct:

- Travel lanes will be 10’ in width to accommodate four lanes of traffic. (Once eastbound traffic returns to the refurbished old viaduct, all lanes will be 11’ wide in the permanent configuration .)
- The speed limit will be reduced to 25 MPH (down from 35 MPH) for safety.
- Either (or both) the First or Fourth Avenue S off-ramps will be open for eastbound motorists.

Westbound on-/off-ramp Construction Moving Ahead

After some unexpected delays in securing the properly fabricated steel girders necessary to connect the ramp to the new viaduct structure, construction has been moving forward. The work is likely to be finished later this spring.

- The on-ramp portion of the structure will not be opened until eastbound traffic is returned to the refurbished old viaduct structure, most likely late in the summer.
- The temporary presence of four lanes of traffic on the new viaduct structure doesn’t leave enough room for the merge lane needed for motorists to safely enter the flow of traffic.
- The off-ramp portion doesn’t appear to present the same safety challenges, so it could open once construction is completed, pending further evaluation.

Traffic Impacts

The remaining construction activity will require intermittent roadway and/or lane closures and detours until construction is completed.

- The vast majority of full roadway closures will occur at night when they impact the fewest number of motorists.
- Due to the complexity of repairing and resurfacing the old deck, there is the potential for multiple short-term traffic configurations, road and ramp closures, and detours.
- Currently, there are no plans or expectations for any weekday daytime closures on the viaduct.
- Should daytime closures prove necessary, every effort will be made to keep them to the shortest possible duration. Motorists will be given advance warning of closures through roadside message signs, traffic alerts to the media, and posting on the project website.
- Be sure to check out the project website for specific traffic information:www.seattle.gov/spokanestreet.htm.

Stay Informed

- Visit the project website at www.seattle.gov/spokanestreet.htm.
- Sign up for project updates on the project website.
- Call the project information line at 206/684-4747.
- Email construction.coordination@seattle.gov to sign up for weekly emails previewing City-wide construction and event related street closures.
- Specific questions can be directed to Paul Elliott, SDOT Community Relations, paul.elliott@seattle.gov or 206/684-5321

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The Spokane Street Viaduct Widening Project is about 85% complete, with completion projected for late summer, 2012.

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