



Strategies to keep people and goods moving in and through Seattle

SR 99 Closure and the Seattle Squeeze 2018-2024

DON Information Session
Delridge Community Center
November 26, 2018

Paul Roybal,
King County Metro

Meghan Shepard,
Downtown Mobility, 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



City of Seattle

Where we are headed



Pike Pine Renaissance



Central Waterfront



WA State Convention Center



Key Arena



Growing light rail system

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

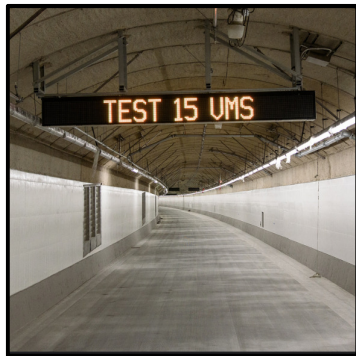


Communicating
with the public



City of Seattle

Program schedule

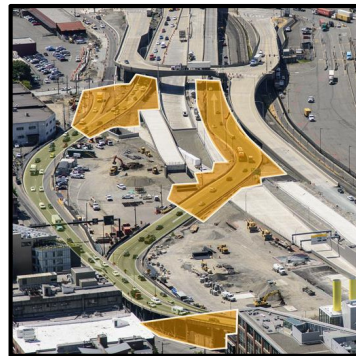


2018

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



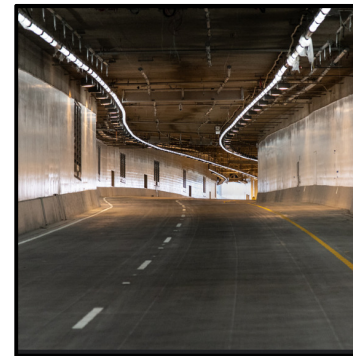
SR 99 closure

Jan. 4:

- SR 99 SB off-ramp at S. Atlantic St closes

Jan. 11:

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



Early 2019

Tunnel opens

Feb*:

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



Work begins

Feb*:

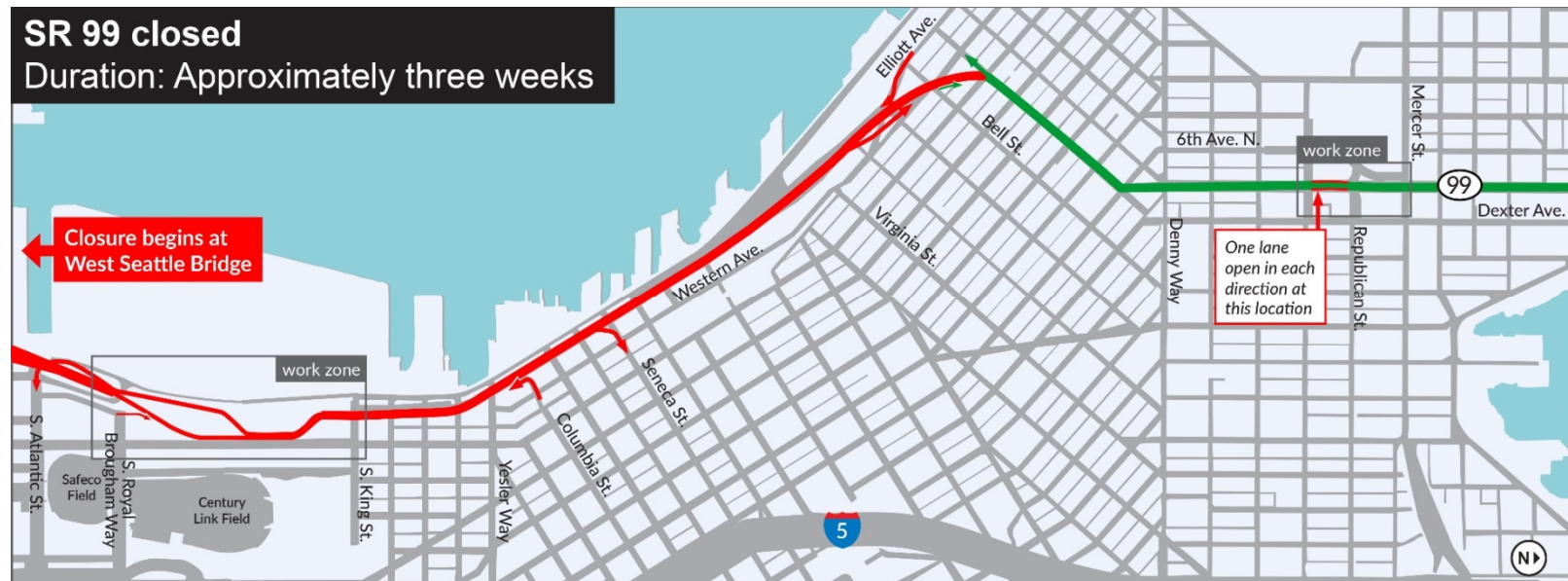
- Viaduct removal
- Closing and filling Battery Street Tunnel
- Rebuilding three blocks of Aurora Avenue North

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

SR 99 closure and tunnel opening: get ready

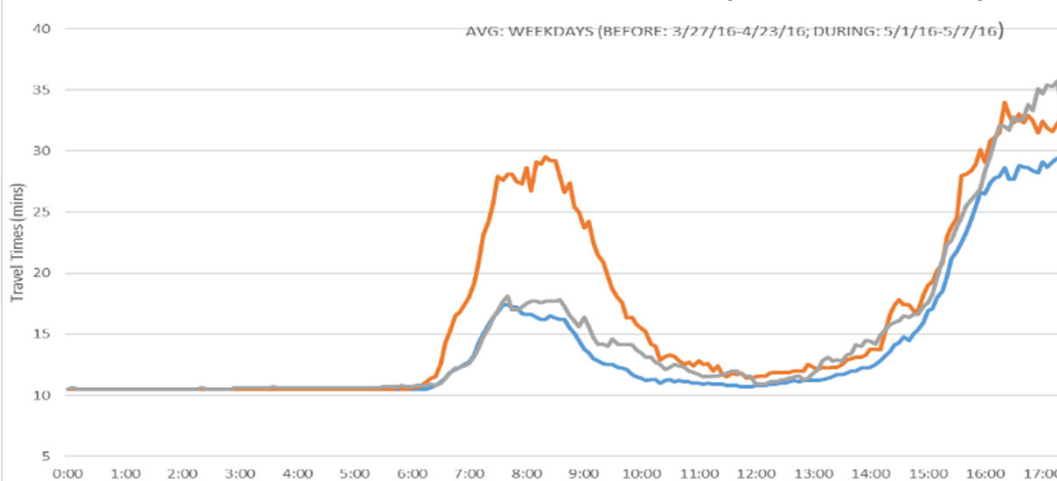
Scheduled to begin January 11, 2019

- **Duration:** about three-weeks for SR 99 closure and up to three weeks of ramp closures
- **Closing a highway adds more drivers to other parts of the system:** 90,000 vehicles per day, including several thousand trucks, and buses have to use another route
- **Expect long backups:** On I-5 and routes into downtown Seattle, especially during peak commute times
- **Major change to transportation system:** New SR 99 tunnel will open, other construction continues

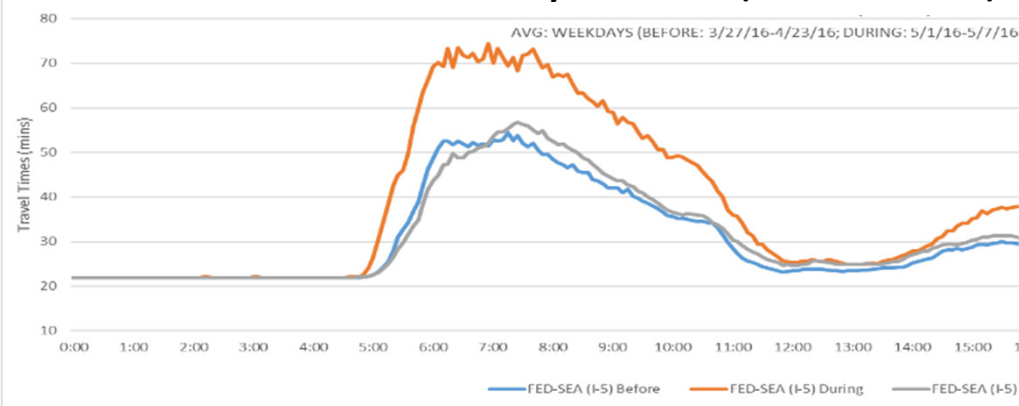


2016 SR 99 closure

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



Feb. 2 – 3, 2019

Event agenda

99StepForward.com

Saturday

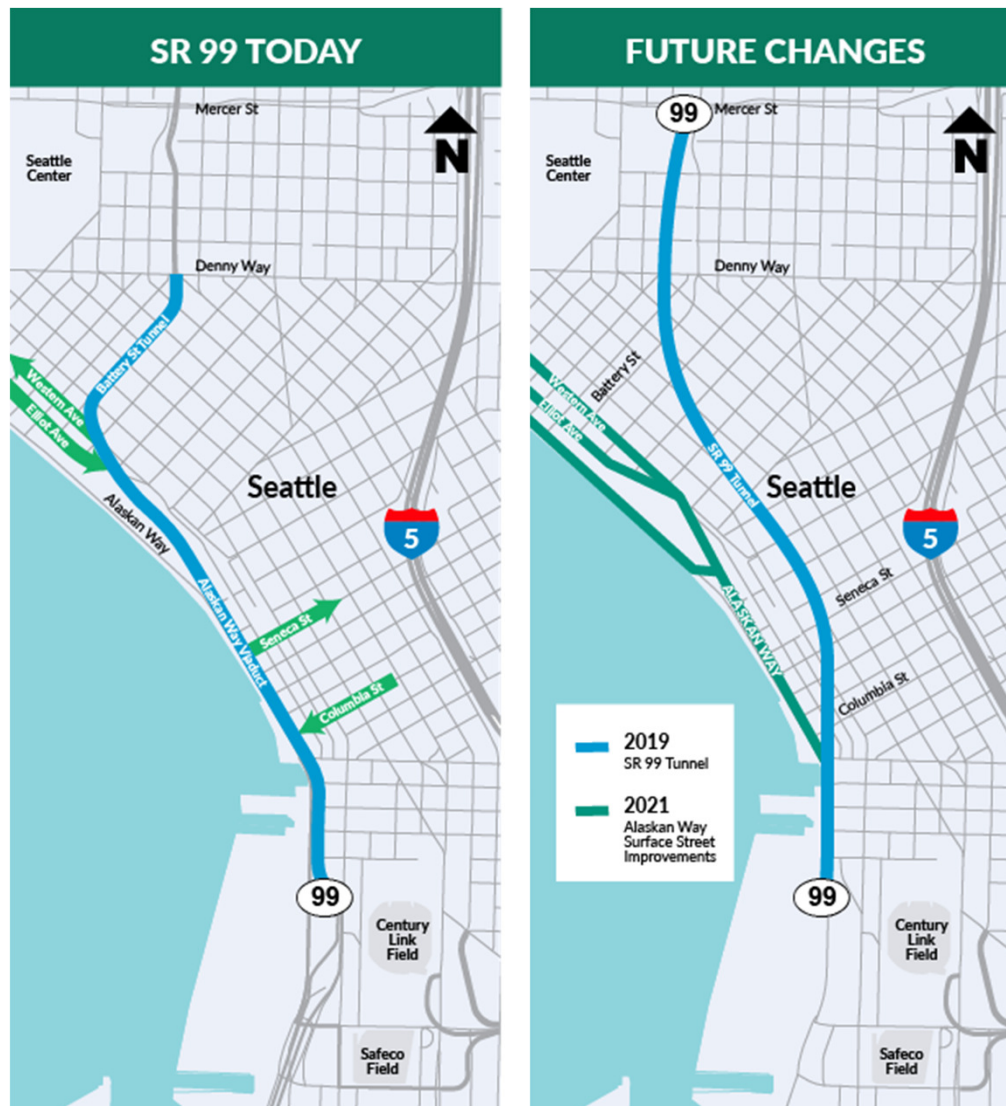
- Fun run
- Ribbon cutting ceremony
- Public festival
- Public tunnel walk/access
- Goodbye to the viaduct/
hello waterfront

Sunday

- Bike ride



Finding a new normal in ongoing changes



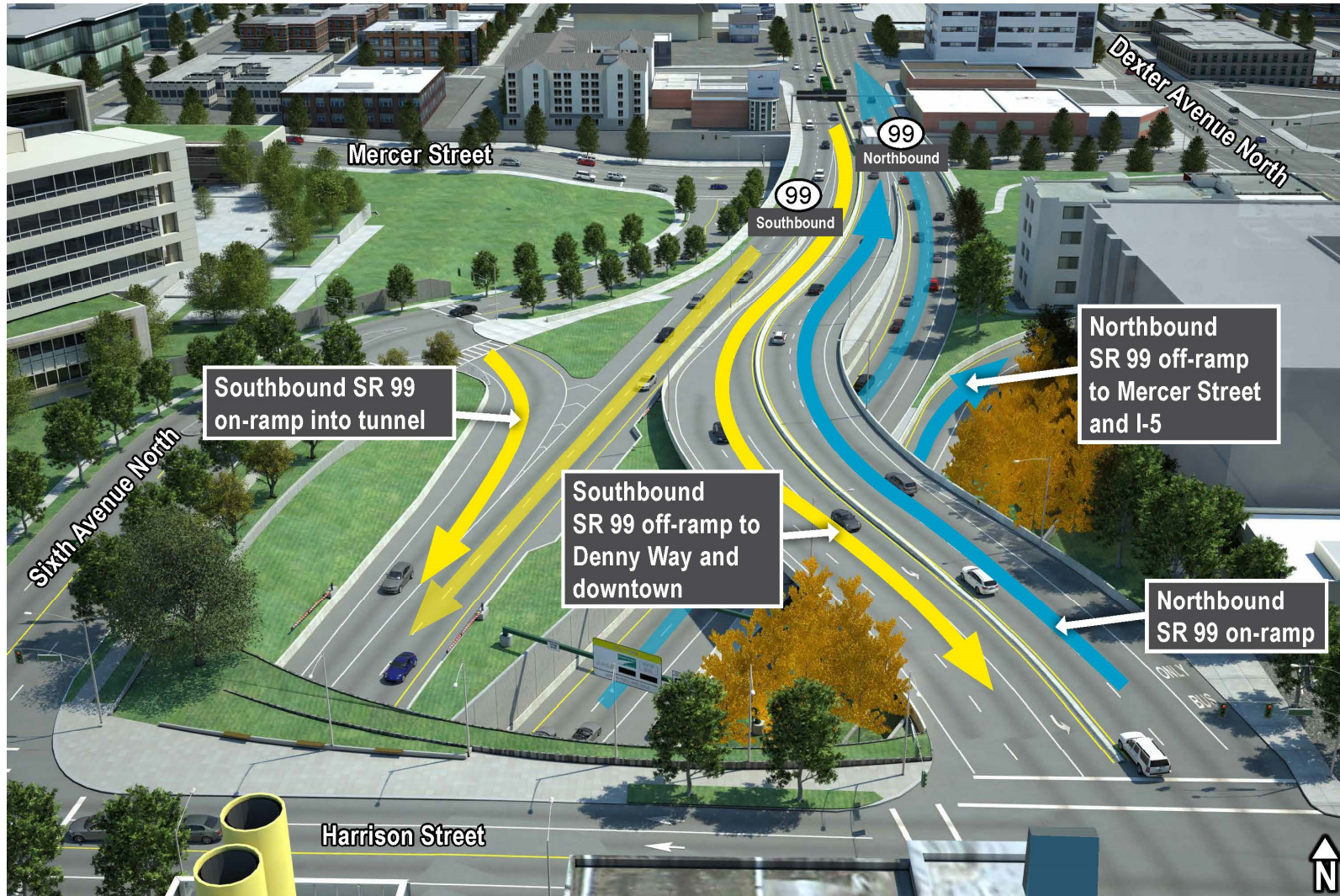
Opening the new SR 99 tunnel is just the start:

- 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.

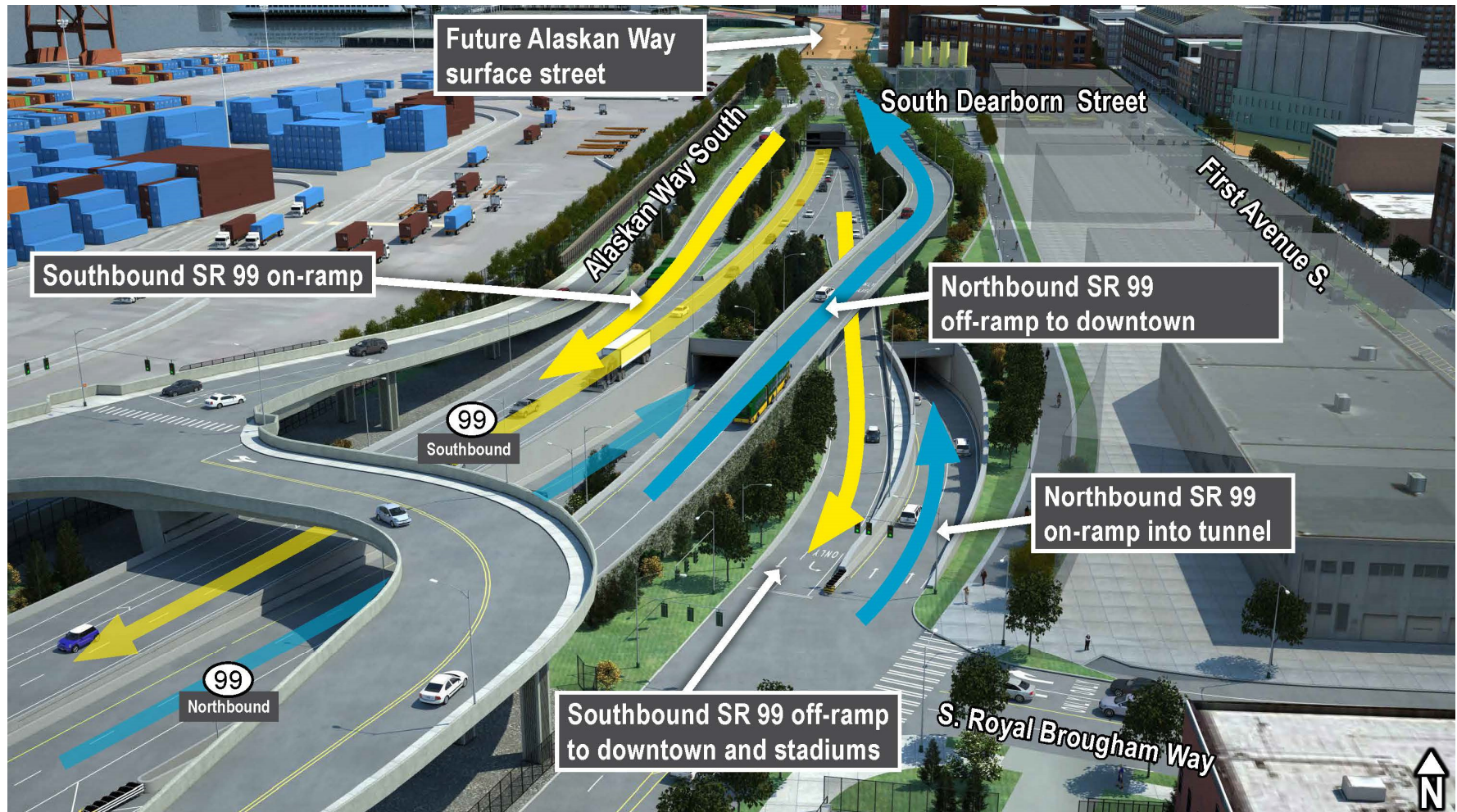
Seattle will experience ongoing change:

- 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.

New SR 99 ramps at the north portal – Looking north



Opening the tunnel: Ramps at the south portal



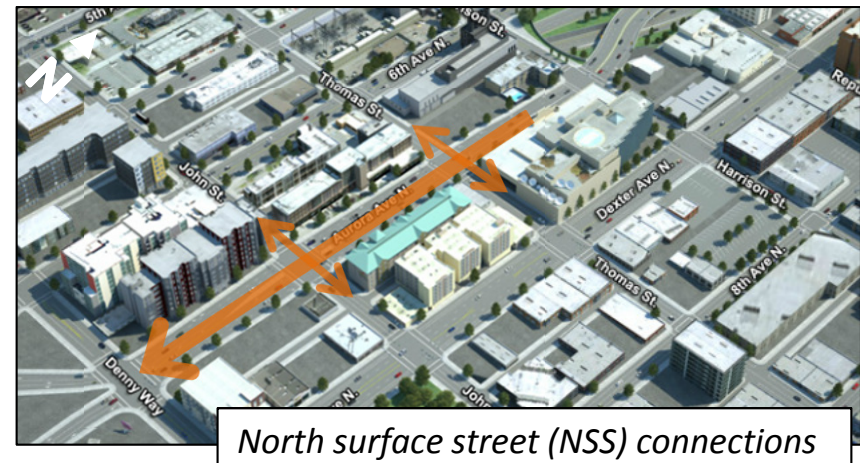
Construction after the SR 99 tunnel opens



Viaduct removal: Approx. 6 months

Battery Street Tunnel decommissioning:
Approx. 24 months

North surface street connections:
Approx. 15 months





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

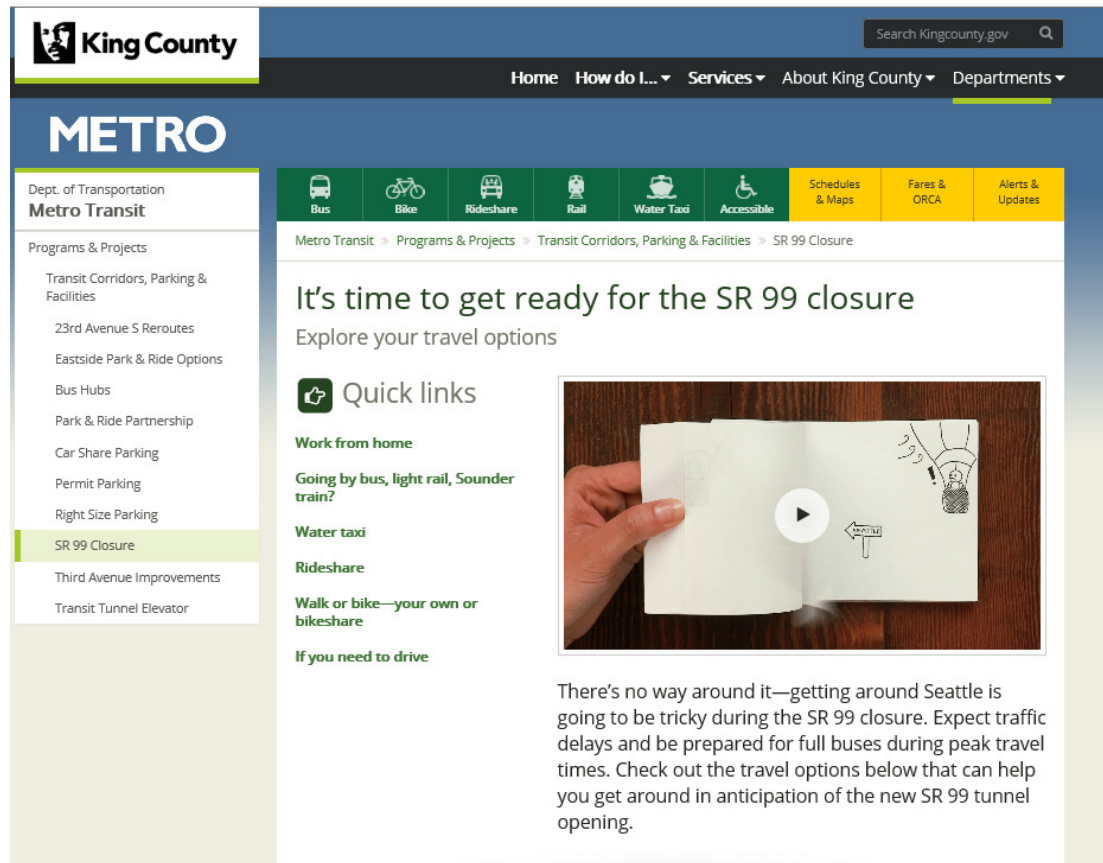
Permanent southend pathway

- **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.



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

Get Ready



- 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>

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

Responding to the SR 99 closure



Staff Transportation Operations Center 24/7 and 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 support Metro's additional Water Taxi service



Modify and schedule permitted construction work for maximum travel capacity



Work with downtown Seattle employers to provide SR 99 consultations and support through Commute Seattle



Launch www.seattle.gov/traffic with corridor specific travel information to help plan your trips



City of Seattle

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.

September 2019 Service Change

- Additional improvements planned to support transit riders and transit speed and reliability

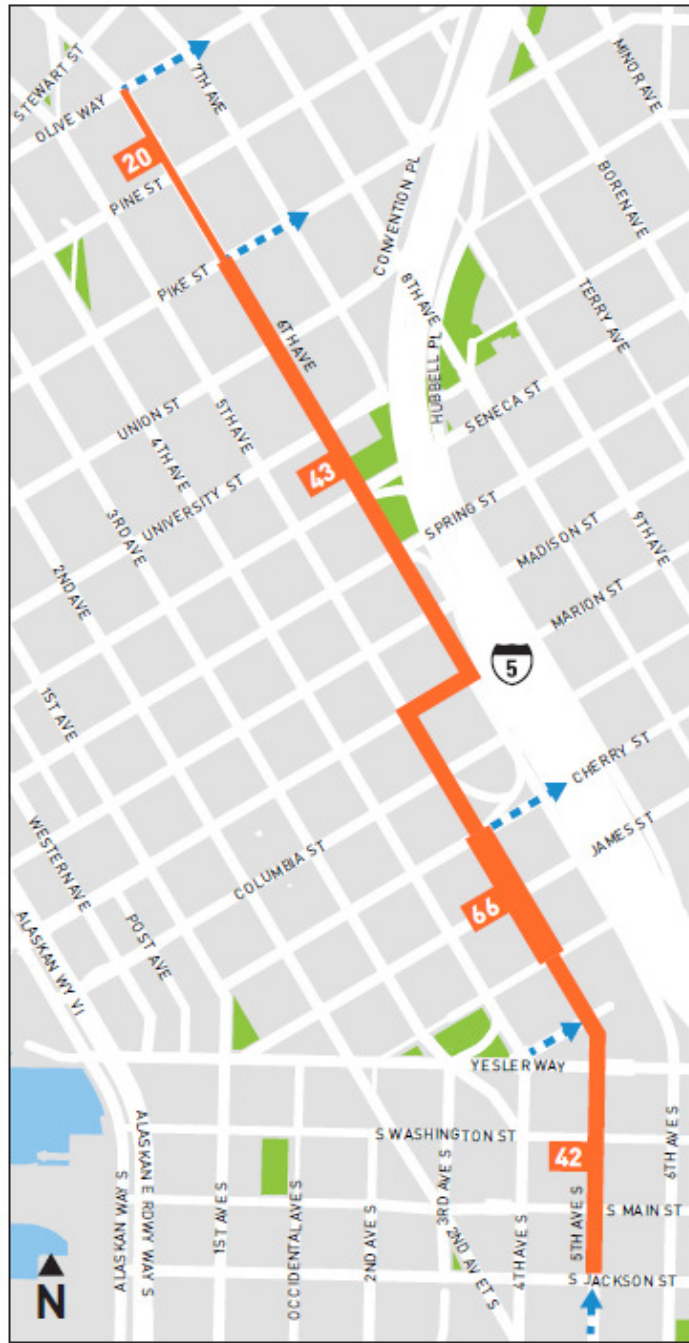
Buses out of Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel

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:** 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 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

- Stay informed
- Sign up for alerts – www.seattle.gov/traffic
- Whenever possible, don't drive alone
- Change your commute – tools at www.kingcounty.gov/getready
- 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

King County Metro

Metro Trip Planning Resources:

<https://kingcounty.gov/getready>

Commute Seattle

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

E-mail:

SR99@commuteseattle.com

Phone:

(206) 613-3206

WSDOT

Twitter:

@BerthaDigsSR99

#Realign99

Email:

viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

www.99tunnel.com | www.AlaskanWayViaduct.org