

Strategies to keep people and goods moving in and through Seattle

SR 99 Closure and the Seattle Squeeze 2018-2024

Arts & Entertainment Access
January 14, 2019

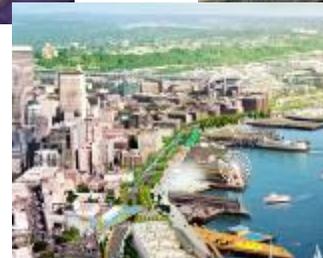
Eric Tweit, Seattle Department of
Transportation



City of Seattle

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



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

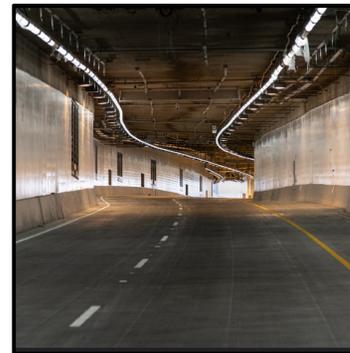
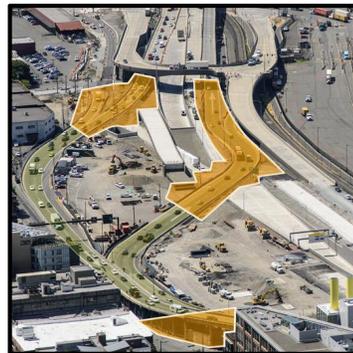
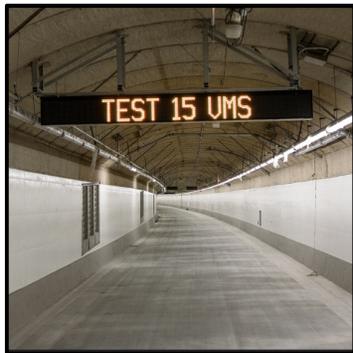


Communicating
with the public



City of Seattle

Program schedule



2018

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 closed

Jan. 11:

- Full SR 99 closure started
- 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*:

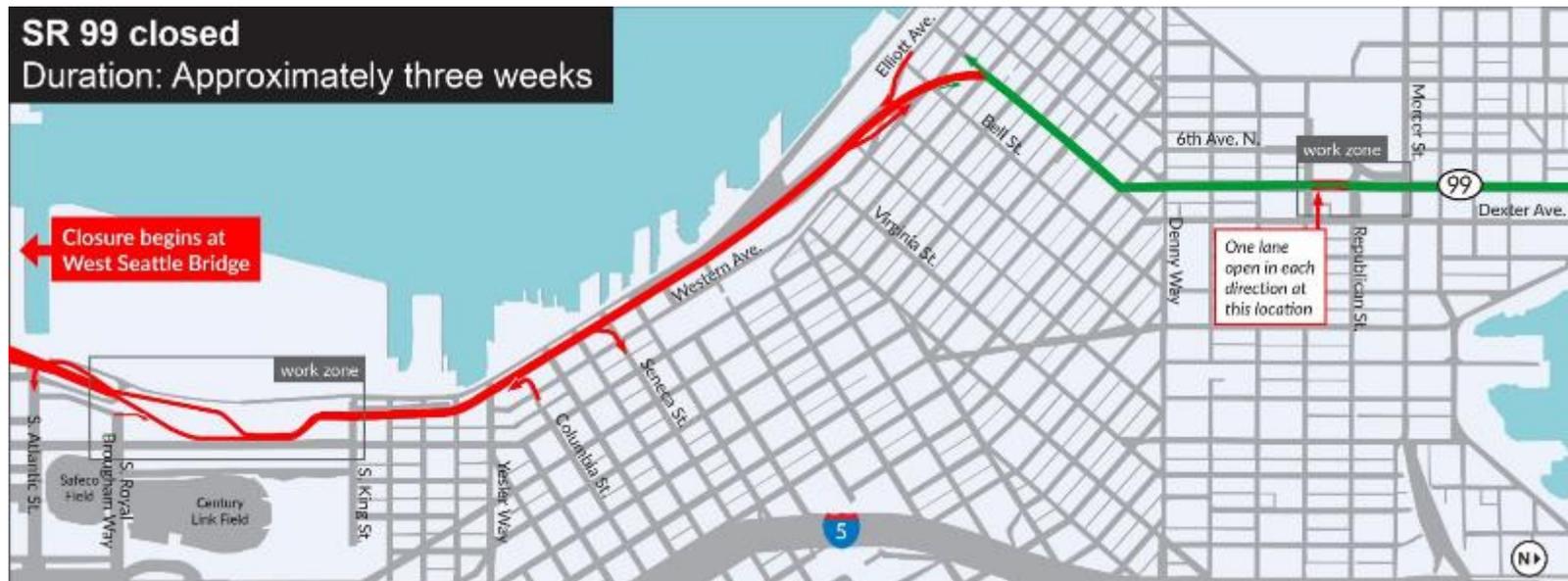
- Viaduct removal
- Closing and filling Battery Street Tunnel
- Rebuilding three blocks of Aurora Avenue North

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

SR 99 closure and tunnel opening

Started on 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 using other routes
- **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



SR 99 closure



PLAN AHEAD 

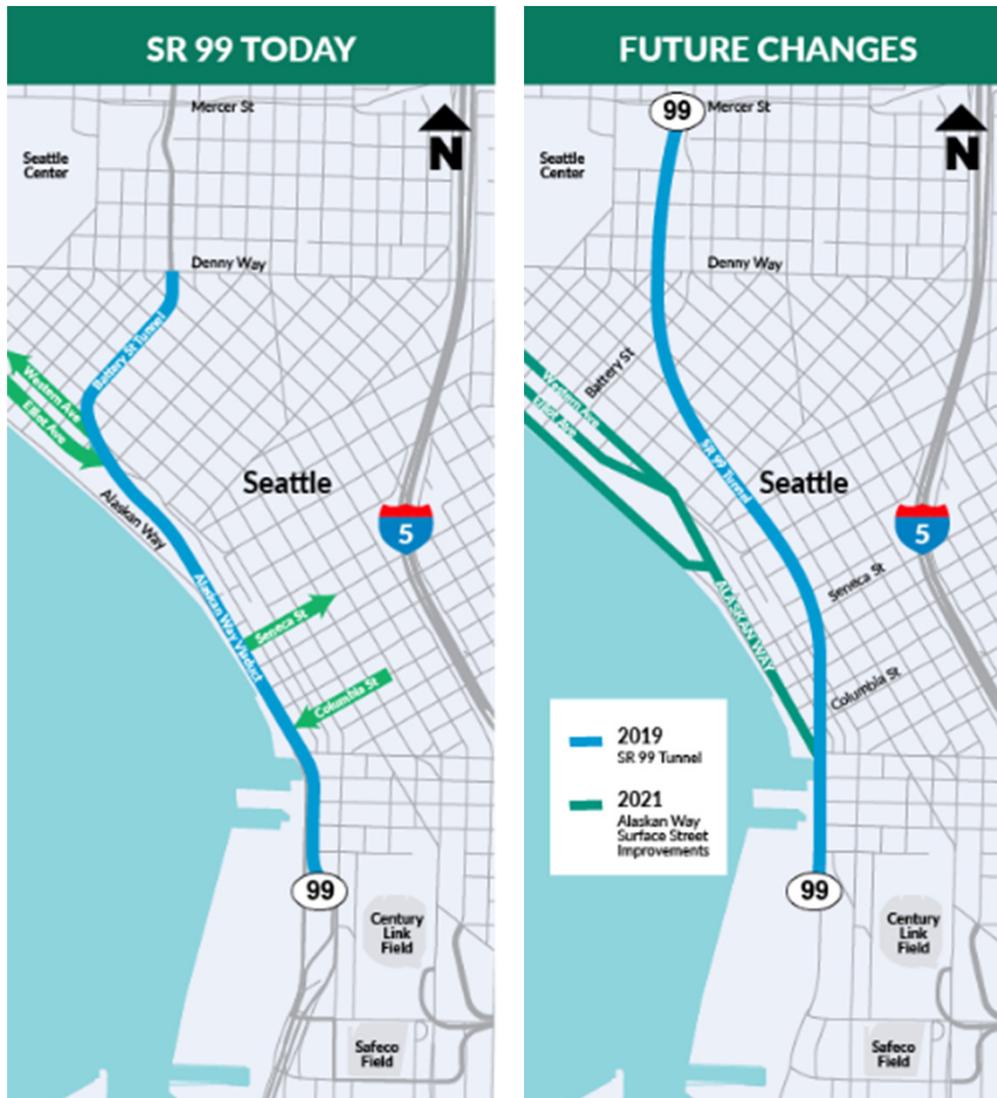
Metro routes
21x, 37, 55, 56, 57, 113,
120, 121, 122, 123, 125,
RapidRide C Line are rerouted
off the Viaduct

#Realign99 #SeattleSqueeze

 **CLOSURE**



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.

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



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; add temporary parking restrictions



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



We're entering a new normal



Questions?

SDOT

Know Before You Go:

www.seattle.gov/traffic

Twitter:

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Commute Seattle

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King County Metro

Metro Trip Planning Resources:

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