

South Park Bridge

South Park Bridge Final Closure Plan Summary

May 25, 2010



King County
Department of Transportation
Road Services Division



South Park Bridge Final Closure Plan Summary*

**To request the complete South Park Bridge Closure Plan, please call 206-263-9989 (Spanish) | 206-263-9988 (Vietnamese).*

Overview

The South Park Bridge is at the end of its useful life, and the King County Department of Transportation Road Services Division must close the bridge to protect public safety. The closure is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

The bridge, also referred to as the 14th Avenue South Bridge or the 14th/16th Avenue South Bridge, carries about 20,000 vehicles per day. It spans the Duwamish River and provides a vital regional connection between the manufacturing and industrial areas of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, the King County International Airport, and south King County and the residential communities of South Park, White Center, West Seattle, Georgetown, Burien, and Boulevard Park.

The problems with the bridge structure are so extensive that there are no feasible repair options. After evaluating several alternatives, King County, in collaboration with community members, businesses, and other stakeholders, determined that the best solution is to build a new movable bascule bridge at the same location to meet local and regional transportation needs well into the future.

Plan goals

The goals of the South Park Bridge Closure Plan are to:

1. Allow for a smooth, well-planned closure of the South Park Bridge;
2. Identify the likely negative effects of the closure on the public, businesses, freight movement, emergency responders, Metro Transit, and other agencies; and
3. Reduce or mitigate these negative effects whenever and wherever possible.

The King County Road Services Division is responsible for developing and implementing the South Park Bridge Closure Plan. The County is taking a collaborative approach, working with multiple jurisdictions to ensure a successful transition and to minimize disruption to the public, businesses, and emergency responders.

The County is working closely with the Seattle Department of Transportation; the cities of Tukwila and Burien; the Washington State Department of Transportation; the fire and police departments of Seattle, Tukwila, and Burien; the King County Sheriff's Office; the Port of Seattle; Puget Sound Energy; Seattle Public Utilities; Qwest; and community advisory groups to meet plan objectives.

Thanks to the many constructive and thoughtful comments we have received from the public and the dedicated involvement of community leaders, we have identified several actions we hope will ease the burden on this vibrant community.

Operational impacts

The South Park Bridge closure will increase congestion on surrounding arterials as drivers shift to alternate routes. The closure will also affect traffic and bus service in and around local communities and on the First Avenue South Bridge, which is the next crossing over the Duwamish River to the north. Other alternatives, including State Route 99, State Route 509, and Interstate 5, will also experience increased traffic congestion.

The County has identified several measures that will reduce the negative effects of the bridge closure on the traveling public. These include installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of First Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street, changing signal timing and pavement markings to accommodate the shift in traffic patterns, and putting up signs to identify alternative routes.

The South Park Bridge closure will require King County Metro Transit to change the routing of three bus lines:

- **Route 60** (White Center, South Park, Georgetown, Beacon Hill, Capitol Hill)
- **Route 131** (Des Moines, Burien, South Park, Georgetown, downtown Seattle)
- **Route 134** (Burien, South Park, Georgetown, downtown Seattle)

These changes will take effect at 5 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

Consistent with its usual approach to rerouting bus service, Metro Transit used the following objectives to guide the development of alternative routes:

- Maintain neighborhood coverage
- Minimize travel time deviation for through riders
- Minimize increases in operating costs

The proposed transit reroutes are as follows:

Route 60

South Park	Georgetown
Reroute via 14th Avenue South, SR-99, and the First Avenue South Bridge	Reroute via East Marginal Way South between South Michigan Street and Carleton Avenue South/Ellis Avenue South

Routes 131 and 134

South Park	Georgetown
Reroute via 14th Avenue South, SR-99, and the First Avenue South Bridge	Reroute via East Marginal Way S between South Michigan Street and Carleton Avenue South/Ellis Avenue South

Closure of the South Park Bridge could affect some emergency response times for fire, paramedic, ambulance, utility, and police vehicles. Response time is the primary concern for

emergency service agencies, and each participating agency is committed to making the changes necessary to maintain response-time standards in the areas affected by the bridge closure.

This closure will also affect the local business community, especially the 14th Avenue South business district, which serves as a primary commuting route. The County is working with the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Economic Development, as well as the Washington State Small Business Development Center and Community Capital Development, to engage local businesses in identifying ways to build and sustain a strong customer base.

The City of Seattle will also be working with Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, a local community-based nonprofit organization, to provide funding for improvements to the 14th Avenue South business district. These improvements may include installing street furniture and banners, creating open spaces, and sponsoring community events that will help activate street life and preserve the vitality of the businesses.

The City of Seattle has made a commitment to have an outreach specialist visit every South Park business over the next six weeks, before the bridge closes. During these site visits, the outreach specialist will ask the business owners how the closure will specifically effect them and what type of business support would be beneficial (i.e., marketing, web presence, new business plan assistance, connections to other business resources or markets, and financing).

In addition to reaching out to and supporting South Park businesses, the City of Seattle and King County will work with the White Center Community Development Corporation to discuss the potential negative effects of the closure on the White Center community.

Ongoing monitoring

Once the bridge is closed, the city, county, and state departments of transportation will monitor roads and intersections throughout South Park, Georgetown, and the surrounding communities, and will adjust detour routes, signs, and traffic signal timing as needed as new traffic patterns are established.

Metro Transit will closely monitor its rerouted bus lines to assess how the revised service is working with the changes in traffic flow. Metro may need to adjust service in response to changes in traffic conditions, commute patterns, and demand.








What's in the complete South Park Bridge Closure Plan?

The complete South Park Bridge Closure Plan includes detailed information such as history and background, data and analysis, community comments, and recommendations from partnering agencies to address the bridge closure.

To request the complete South Park Bridge Closure Plan, please leave a message on the South Park Bridge info line: 206-263-9989 (Spanish) | 206-263-9988 (Vietnamese).

LEGEND

Revised Route 60

-  Unchanged Routing
-  New Routing
-  Deleted Routing
-  Impacted Bus Zones
-  Other Metro Zones
-  Other Metro Routes
-  City of Seattle



Route 60: South Park Bridge Closure: SR-99 Option

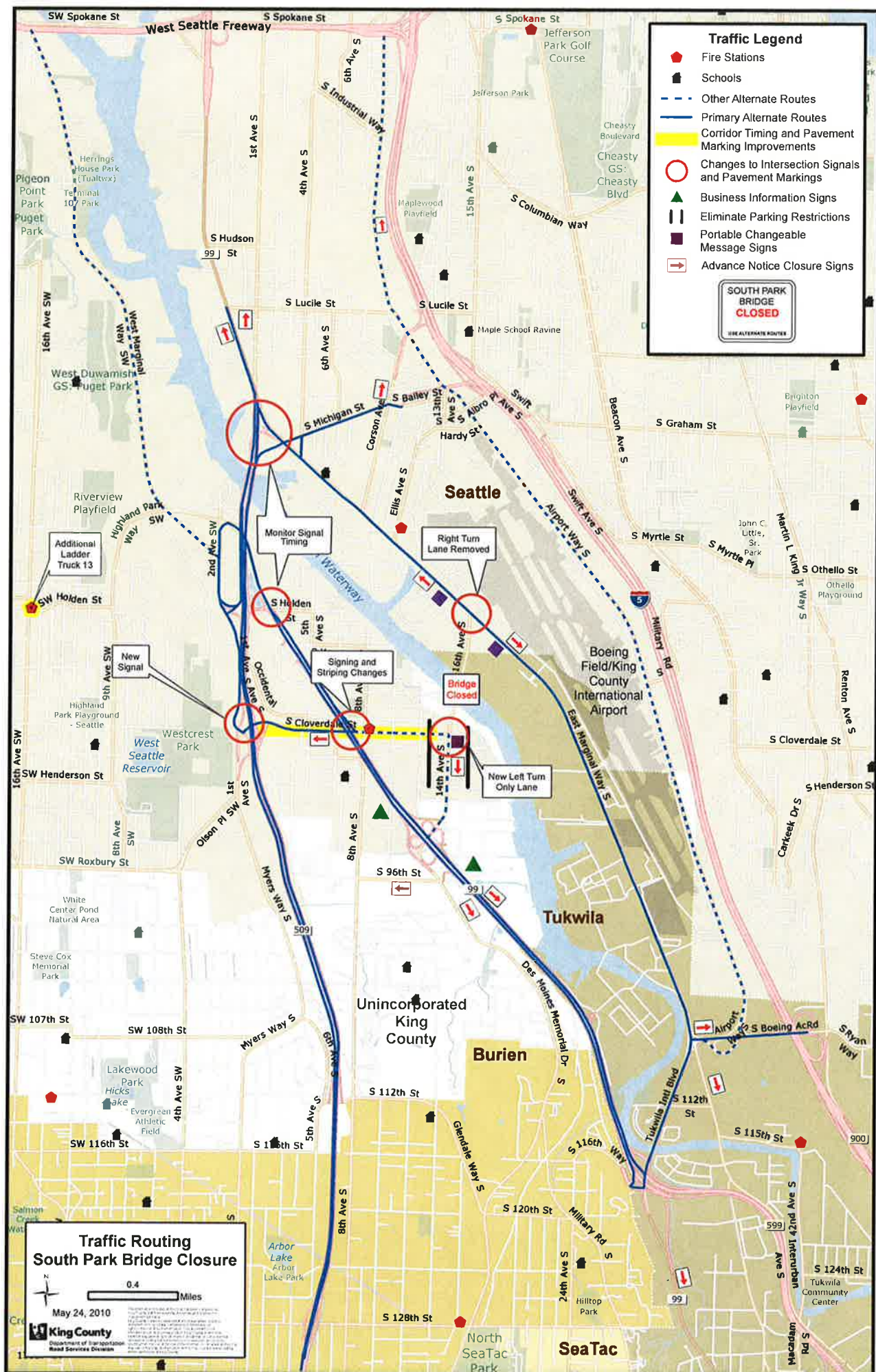
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Map produced by King County Department of Transportation, Transit Division, Service Development Section, Service Planning Group. Filename: route60_SR99

May 7, 2010



King County



Traffic Legend

- Fire Stations
- Schools
- Other Alternate Routes
- Primary Alternate Routes
- Corridor Timing and Pavement Marking Improvements
- Changes to Intersection Signals and Pavement Markings
- ▲ Business Information Signs
- Eliminate Parking Restrictions
- Portable Changeable Message Signs
- Advance Notice Closure Signs

SOUTH PARK BRIDGE CLOSED

SEE ALTERNATE ROUTES

Traffic Routing South Park Bridge Closure

0.4 Miles

May 24, 2010

King County
Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

This map is intended to provide information regarding the closure of the South Park Bridge. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The Department of Transportation reserves the right to change the closure dates and times without notice. For more information, please contact the Department of Transportation at (206) 462-3000.