

5.0: Scenario 3: Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure

Occasionally there are incidents on the Alaskan Way Viaduct that severely impact the flow of traffic in one or both directions. These can be collisions, medical emergencies, fire, hazardous materials incidents, and/or police actions. Though usually relatively brief in duration (typically two – six hours) these incidents can be extremely disruptive to the smooth flow of traffic on both the Viaduct and on the City streets used by traffic diverted off the Viaduct.

The Action Plan that follows in this chapter assumes the quick composition of an Incident Oversight Team (as referenced in other chapters and Action Plans.) However, depending on the nature, time of day or night, or expected duration of an incident, the logistics of quickly forming such a team may be too unwieldy. Depending on these circumstances, the SDOT decision-maker notified by Charles Street Dispatch with authority to implement the Action Plan (i.e., in the second row of the Action Plan matrix that follows) may wish to implement components of this Plan before establishing an Incident Oversight Team, understanding they will do their best to communicate with other key members of such a team.

There are a variety of proactive actions that emergency responders and SDOT could take to mitigate the effects of a major traffic incident on the Viaduct. SDOT would pursue these traffic management goals:

- Redirect traffic coming into the area before it becomes entangled with the incident.
- Support SPD and help ensure surface street ramps to/from the Viaduct are available for motorists “entrapped” behind the incident.
- Work with Incident Commanders to ensure access routes for emergency vehicles.
- Rapidly move to implement established Action Plan in order to free up police officers from traffic control tasks, if appropriate.
- Manage the remaining transportation system in and around Seattle to work as well as possible to accommodate the increased burden placed upon it by the total or partial temporary loss of the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

When use of the Alaskan Way Viaduct is compromised by a major traffic incident the City’s 9-1-1 Center is typically the first to learn of the emergency through citizen reports. Depending on the nature of the report, Police, Fire, emergency medical services, or any combination of the three are called to the scene. The first unit at the scene then notifies their dispatch center of conditions. Additional resources are dispatched as appropriate. Typically, Police will address the incident scene investigation and address immediate traffic issues.

**Scenario 3A: Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure:
Viaduct temporarily closed in both directions**

ACTION PLAN

Initiating Actions		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
If not already aware of situation, advise SPD & SFD using direct intercom.	Charles Street Dispatcher	
<p>Upon being made aware of the closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, contact any of the following for authorization to initiate “Scenario 3A – Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure: Viaduct temporarily closed in <u>both</u> directions Action Plan”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director, Traffic Management Division 2. Manager, Traffic Operations 3. Manager, Signal Operations 4. Director, Street Maintenance 5. Director, Roadway Structures <p>(see Appendix J for contact information)</p> <p>Note: Whoever is contacted to initiate actions is responsible for advising SDOT Director, Traffic Division Director and convening the Incident Oversight Team</p>	Charles Street Dispatcher	
Notify WSDOT NW Region Traffic Systems Management Center. (SPECIFIC PHONE NUMBER CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY).	Street Maintenance Senior supervisor on duty	
Notify King County Metro Transit to use established alternate routes.	Incident Oversight Team	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
<p>Mobilize crews to staff six (6) trucks with lighted “arrow boards.” Upon request of SPD, dispatch to locations specified in SPD’s “Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastbound South Spokane Street at ramp to northbound SR-99 • Northbound East Marginal Way South at 4200 block 	Street Maint. Senior supervisor on duty	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northbound 1st Avenue South ramp to northbound SR-99 • Columbia Street ramp to southbound SR-99 • Southbound Aurora Avenue at John Street • Southbound Elliott Avenue at southbound ramp to SR-99 		
SPD to post officers at identified priority locations per AWW Closure Plan to assist in moving traffic through intersections. (SPECIFIC LOCATIONS CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY.)	SPD -- Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan (specific plan follows in this section)	
Incident Oversight Team – assess situation and make determination to continue as proscribed in Action Plan or modify as needed.	Incident Oversight Team	
Provide prepared messages to media	Incident Oversight Team	
Implement Signal timing plans for AM Peak, PM Peak,” or Off Peak as indicated by situation	SDOT Traffic Management Center Manager	

Follow-up Actions – Actions to be taken if deemed beneficial in collaboration with SDOT’s Incident Oversight Team and SPD’s Traffic Division.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
1. Locate Portable Changeable Message Signs as available with message “SR 99 Viaduct Closed – Use Alternate Routes”: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SW Spokane Street at Delridge Way SW b. SW Admiral Way at California Avenue SW c. SW 35th Street at SW Spokane Street d. East Marginal Way South at 1st Avenue South e. SR 509 south of 1st Avenue South Bridge f. SR 99 at North 145th Street g. SR 99 at North 130th Street h. SR 99 at North 85th Street i. SR 99, at Winona Avenue North 	Incident Oversight Team	
2. Monitor conditions	Incident Oversight Team	
3. Adjust signal timing plan if warranted	Incident Oversight Team	
4. Monitor for demobilization	Incident Oversight	

Follow-up Actions – Actions to be taken if deemed beneficial in collaboration with SDOT’s Incident Oversight Team and SPD’s Traffic Division.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
	Team	

Scenario 3B: Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure: Viaduct temporarily closed northbound only

ACTION PLAN

Initiating Actions		
Action	Responsible Party	Complete Date/time
If not already aware of situation, advise SPD & SFD using direct intercom	Charles Street Dispatcher	
<p>Upon being made aware of the closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, contact any of the following for authorization to initiate “Scenario 3B – Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure: Viaduct temporarily closed <u>northbound only</u> Action Plan”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Director, Traffic Management Division 2) Manager, Traffic Operations 3) Manager, Signal Operations 4) Director, Street Maintenance 5) Director, Roadway Structures <p>(see Appendix J for contact information)</p> <p>Note: Whoever is contacted to initiate actions is responsible for advising SDOT Director, Traffic Division Director and convening the Incident Oversight Team</p>	Charles Street Dispatcher	
Notify WSDOT NW Region Traffic Systems Management Center. (SPECIFIC PHONE NUMBER CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY).	Street Maintenance Senior supervisor on duty	
Notify King County Metro Transit to use established alternate routes	Incident Oversight Team	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
Action	Responsible Party	Complete Date/time
<p>Mobilize crews to staff three (3) trucks with lighted “arrow boards.” Upon request of SPD, dispatch to locations specified in SPD’s “Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Eastbound South Spokane Street at ramp to northbound SR-99 2.) Northbound East Marginal Way South at 	Street Maintenance Senior supervisor on duty	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
4200 block 3.) Northbound 1 st Avenue South at ramp to northbound SR-99		
SPD to post officers at identified priority locations per AWV Closure Plan to assist in moving traffic through intersections. (SPECIFIC LOCATIONS CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY.)	SPD -- Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan	
Incident Oversight Team – assess situation and make determination to continue as proscribed in Action Plan or modify as needed.	Incident Oversight Team	
Provide prepared messages to media	Incident Oversight Team – SDOT PIO	
Implement Signal timing plans for AM Peak, PM Peak,” or Off Peak as indicated by situation	SDOT Traffic Management Center Manager	

Follow-up Actions – Actions to be taken if deemed beneficial in collaboration with SDOT’s Incident Oversight Team and SPD’s Traffic Division		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
Locate Portable Changeable Message Signs as available with message “SR 99 Viaduct Closed – Use Alternate Routes”: a. SW Spokane Street west of 35 th Avenue SW b. SW 35 th Street at SW Spokane Street c. East Marginal Way South at 1 st Avenue South d. SR 509 south of 1 st Avenue South Bridge	Incident Oversight Team	
Monitor conditions	Incident Oversight Team	
Adjust signal timing plan if warranted	Incident Oversight Team	
Monitor for demobilization	Incident Oversight Team	

Scenario 3C: Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure: Viaduct temporarily closed southbound only

ACTION PLAN

Initiating Actions		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
If not already aware of situation, advise SPD & SFD using direct intercom	Charles Street Dispatcher	
Upon being made aware of the closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, contact any of the following for authorization to initiate “Scenario 3C – Traffic Incident – Short-Term Closure: Viaduct temporarily closed in southbound only Action Plan” 1) Director, Traffic Management Division 2) Manager, Traffic Operations 3) Manager, Signal Operations 4) Director, Street Maintenance 5) Director, Roadway Structures (see Appendix J for contact information) Note: Whoever is contacted to initiate actions is responsible for advising SDOT Director, Traffic Division Director and convening the Incident Oversight Team	Charles Street Dispatcher	
Notify WSDOT NW Region Traffic Systems Management Center. (SPECIFIC PHONE NUMBER CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY).	Street Maintenance Senior supervisor on duty	
Notify METRO to use established alternate routes	Incident Oversight Team	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
Mobilize crews to staff three (3) trucks with lighted “arrow boards.” Upon request of SPD, dispatch to locations specified in SPD’s “Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan.” 1.) Columbia Street at ramp to southbound SR-99 at 1 st Avenue 2.) Southbound Aurora Avenue at John Street	Street Maintenance Senior supervisor on duty	

Immediate Actions – Actions in this “Immediate Actions” section are not sequential; they will be initiated concurrently.		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
3.) Southbound Elliott Avenue at southbound ramp to SR-99		
SPD to post officers at identified priority locations per AWV Closure Plan to assist in moving traffic through intersections. (SPECIFIC LOCATIONS CONTAINED IN STAFF DOCUMENT ONLY.)	SPD – Alaskan Way Viaduct Closure Plan	
Incident Oversight Team – assess situation and make determination to continue as proscribed in Action Plan or modify as needed.	Incident Oversight Team	
Provide prepared messages to media	Incident Oversight Team	
Implement Signal timing plans for AM Peak, PM Peak,” or Off Peak as indicated by situation	SDOT Traffic Management Center Manager	

Follow-up Actions – Actions to be taken if deemed beneficial in collaboration with SDOT’s Incident Oversight Team and SPD’s Traffic Division		
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Complete Date/time</u>
Locate Portable Changeable Message Signs as available with message “SR 99 Viaduct Closed – Use Alternate Routes”: a. SR 99 at North 145 th Street b. SR 99 at North 130 th Street c. SR 99 at North 85 th Street d. SR 99, North of Aurora Bridge	Incident Oversight Team	
Monitor conditions	Incident Oversight Team	
Adjust signal timing plan if warranted	Incident Oversight Team	
Monitor for demobilization	Incident Oversight Team	

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL
TIMING PLAN**

