

WEST SEATTLE HIGH-RISE BRIDGE & COVID-19 RESPONSE

Beyond the winter months, how travelers in and around West Seattle and the Duwamish Valley get around changed significantly in 2020. Over the next few years, people travelling to and from that region will continue to be impacted by increased congestion. We have ensured that West Seattle Bridge detour routes are on all current snow and ice routes. Here's how you can help keep people and goods moving during this difficult time:

1. Plan and expect more traffic on detour routes.
2. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.
3. Try a new mode of transportation such as walking, biking, or taking the bus. Avoid driving alone, if possible.
4. Be patient and kind to your fellow travelers and considerate of the neighbors who live on the streets you may be using.

We've also made sure all COVID-19 testing sites are in the Winter Weather Plan. And, as more sites are added and if locations change, we are flexible and can adjust accordingly!

STAY SAFE – DON'T DRIVE UNLESS YOU HAVE TO

We work with King County Metro to keep bus routes as clear of snow and ice as possible and are committed to using all the tools at our disposal to make sure people can get around the city by bus.

If you absolutely need to drive, please take extra care and obey all Street Closure signs. If a street is closed, it means that it is unsafe to drive on. If you can't see any hazards, there may be black ice or a trouble spot beyond your view.

Take your time and look out for each other. Do not try to pass snow plows, and be extra mindful of people walking or biking.

Remember you are responsible for outfitting your cars with chains or traction devices for winter weather.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Seattle Department of Transportation
www.seattle.gov/transportation/winter-weather

General Information

<https://takewinterbystorm.org/king-county/>

2020-2021

WINTER WEATHER



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

OUR PLAN FOR WINTER STORMS

In Seattle, winter can bring heavy rain, high winds, ice and snow. SDOT monitors conditions to make sure that you stay safe when winter storms are imminent.

- Our staff follows weather reports 24 hours a day, all year long, with a direct line to the National Weather Service and live Doppler radar feeds.
- We use a forecasting tool developed with the University of Washington called SNOWWATCH to learn how a storm will most likely affect different neighborhoods. This information helps determine where the crews will be needed first.
- Ground surface sensors and computerized sensors located on city bridges provide timely and accurate air and roadway surface temperatures.
- We use real-time, live-streaming cameras to see actual conditions on key streets. You can see the camera views on SDOT's website, www.seattle.gov/travelers.

OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP SEATTLE MOVING SAFELY

- During a severe storm, our crews work 24/7 to clear the city's most critical streets for buses and emergency services.
- Before the snow starts falling, the crews pre-treat key streets and bridges with anti-icer to help prevent ice from forming.
- Once snow begins to fall, crews continuously plow their routes and treat the road with salt where needed as the snow continues to fall.
- There are about 1200 lane-miles of major streets in Seattle. It can take us up to 12 hours to clear all this ground after a break in the storm.
- A GPS system tracks the locations of the plows and trucks. A map on our website shows how recently a street has been cleared: www.Seattle.gov/StormResponseMap

WE PREPARE FOR SNOW ALL YEAR LONG

In the summer, we train staff, calibrate equipment, and work with local agency partners. This means that our crews are ready to go to work when high winds, heavy rain, or snow and ice are forecast to keep the roads clear of everything from fallen trees and branches to snow and ice, and to repair signs and signals. We also make sure that our supplies of salt and liquid anti-icer are stocked.

BIKING IN THE SNOW

- We're working to help people get around by bike when it snows. We have a designated team for treating and clearing protected bike lanes.
- It takes time to clear bike routes. To be efficient, bike lanes are cleared after the adjacent lane has been plowed to avoid pushing more snow into the bike lane.
- If you decide to bike in the snow, please dress for the weather with reflective clothes, lights and a helmet.
- Road conditions can change at any time, so ride slowly, use caution, and remember that drivers may need more time to stop and could be navigating unfamiliar road conditions.

DO YOUR PART TO KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

- We are all in this together and everyone has a responsibility to help keep sidewalks in front of your home or business clear during a snow storm.
- There are over 2,400 miles of sidewalks in Seattle, and SDOT crews cannot be everywhere at once. We rely on you to do your part so that we can focus on clearing sidewalks that are not near privately owned buildings and keeping the city's most critical streets clear.
- Clearing the sidewalks in front of your home or business isn't just the law, it's also the right thing to do so that everyone can travel safely during a snow storm, especially people who are blind, disabled, or have a harder time getting around.
- Talk to your neighbors before a storm to find out who will need help in your community. Work together to support one another, and come up with a plan to ensure that all the sidewalks on your block are kept clear so that everyone can get around safely.

How to prepare:

- Stock up before the storm hits. You'll need a snow shovel, a bag of street salt, warm clothes, extra blankets, flashlights, first aid kits, and three-day supply of food, water and medicine for the whole family.
- Before it freezes, sprinkle rock salt (or another environmentally friendly product) to prevent ice from forming.
- Once it starts snowing, shovel your sidewalk every 12 hours before snow turns to ice. If you can, be a good neighbor and help clear any storm drains and corner curb ramps on your block, or lend a helping hand to any neighbors who may need it.

WINTER WEATHER QUICK TIPS

DRESS FOR WINTER



HELP NEIGHBORS:

- Clear sidewalks
- Groceries, supplies



SDOT REMOVES ICE AND SNOW FROM MAJOR STREETS



CLEAR SIDEWALKS OF LEAVES, SNOW, AND ICE



KNOW SNOW ROUTE BUS SCHEDULE TAKE THE BUS



LISTEN TO WEATHER FORECASTS



OBEDI "STREET CLOSED" SIGNS



CAR:

- Drive in snow only if necessary
- Clear the windows
- Have good tires; traction devices ready
- Drive slower
- Leave plenty of room between cars



HOW WE CHOOSE SNOW ROUTES

During a major snow storm, we prioritize plowing 1,200 lane miles of Seattle's most critical routes to hospitals, schools, emergency services, shelters, and major employers.

We can't be everywhere at once, and many streets are too narrow to plow safely. Hills are a major challenge and there's not always room for plows to get through without damaging cars or burying them under piles of snow.

The Washington State Department of Transportation is responsible for plowing state highways and freeways. We work in close partnership to make sure there is a good plan so you can get around safely.

