

Neighborhood traffic FAQs

23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements Project

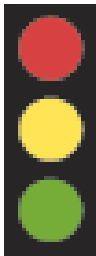
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What is SDOT doing to address cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets?

SDOT takes concerns about the safety of people walking, biking, taking transit and driving in and around the project area very seriously. While we make every effort to encourage drivers to use the designated detour route, we expect congestion to arise as drivers adjust to the changes.

As a result of neighborhood reports and field observations received to date, SDOT has worked to optimize traffic flow on the detour route and implement tools ahead of the upcoming detour changes to discourage drivers from cutting through or speeding on neighborhood streets. At the beginning of major detour changes, it is an iterative effort to adjust signals, change current or install additional signage and implement traffic calming measures as warranted – we appreciate your patience.

Traffic signal changes



One of the best ways SDOT can limit the temptation for drivers to use neighborhood streets is to help optimize the detour route. With the northbound detour extending from E Union St to E Madison St on June 1, our signal technicians will monitor and adjust traffic signals in the area based on the traffic patterns that develop. Past changes have helped manage traffic back-ups on Martin Luther King Jr Way and other arterials. However, congestion will still occur during peak hours, as it did before construction began.

Yard signs

Since the start of construction in June 2015, we have delivered Vision Zero yard signs to various community contacts and neighbors for installation in front yards and within city right of way to provide a reminder to drivers to slow down. To request a yard sign, please call our outreach team at 206-727-8857 or email a request to 23rdAveCorridor@seattle.gov.



“Local Access Only” signs



Based on neighborhood reports to date, we will install multiple “Local Access Only” signs before the June 1 detour extension on local streets to discourage cut-through traffic. The availability of these signs is limited, but please contact us if you are observing drivers speeding and would like to request your street be considered for placement of a “Local Access Only” sign.

Increased patrols and speeding enforcement

Ahead of and at the beginning of detour changes, we provide a list of locations where neighbors have reported speeding on neighborhood streets to the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct, to request increased patrols in those areas.

Speed trailers



At the beginning of the detour change, we are placing two trailers at hot spot locations as reported by neighbors. The speed trailers serve as a speeding deterrent by educating drivers about their speeds. Due to a limited supply of speed trailers citywide, the speed trailers are usually placed at one location for a short time period.