

January 2019



Pioneer Square News + Updates

Pioneer Square 2019

You are the heart and soul of this neighborhood, proving over and over again your strength, creativity, and resilience! As we step into 2019 and all of the changes it will bring to our city, I would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to Pioneer Square. Let's not just survive this period – let's thrive.

Happy New Year,

Lisa Howard



January First Thursday + FREE Parking



the "first" Thursday of 2019! January 3rd, 5-10pm

Every First Thursday of the month, Pioneer Square welcomes you to join us in the venerated tradition of Art Walk with exceptional artists, innovative works, and creative kinship. During Art Walk, parking is free from 5 to 10pm! Make sure to grab your voucher from a participating gallery or studio to park for free at one of three neighborhood garages.

Planning for January Construction Impacts & Beyond

After over 11 years of planning and work, it's here. The closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct is quickly approaching. With this milestone, Pioneer Square is a step closer to reconnecting with the waterfront for the first time since 1949. This period will no doubt be challenging and will require your continued resilience and creativity. Below is a timeline of major downtown projects that will impact traffic beginning in January and over the next few years, along with some tips for preparation and contact information.



Timeline

January 4, 2019 | [SR 99 Stadium Ramps Close](#): Northbound SR 99 on-ramp from Royal Brougham Way and Southbound SR 99 off-ramp to S Atlantic Street close about one week before the full closure to allow for work on connections to the new SR 99 tunnel.

January 11, 2019 | [Alaskan Way Viaduct Closes](#): WSDOT will close SR 99 through downtown Seattle for approximately three weeks to build roadway and ramp connections, realign SR 99 and open the new SR 99 tunnel.

Early February 2019 | [SR 99 Tunnel Opens](#): The new 2-mile stretch of SR 99 tunnel opens to traffic. After the tunnel opens the northbound off-ramp to downtown will remain closed for up to two weeks.

Early 2019 - 2020 | [Alaskan Way Viaduct Removal and Related Projects](#): After the tunnel opens, AWW demolition begins by the waterfront, the Battery Street Tunnel will be decommissioned, and surface streets around Aurora Ave N will be reconnected.

March 2019 | [Bus Service Ends in the Light Rail Tunnel](#): King County Metro bus routes 41, 74, 101, 102, 150, 255 and Sound Transit Express Route 550 buses will no longer use the transit tunnel and will operate on surface streets, including a new transit pathway on 5th and 6th Avenues.

2019 - 2021 | [Waterfront Construction](#): Built by the City of Seattle's Office of the Waterfront, the new Alaskan Way street will be transformed along the waterfront with a new promenade and connections to the Pike Place Market.

2019 | [SR 99 Tunnel Tolling](#): The SR 99 tunnel will be free to use when it opens for a period before tolling starts. Tolling could begin as early as summer 2019.

Under construction thru 2022 | [WA State Convention Center \(WSCC\) Addition](#): WSCC has launched a transformative project that will provide economic and public benefits, including affordable housing, cycling, and pedestrian improvements, and a study of adding more of I-5 – as part of its \$92 million expansion. Construction is expected to be complete in Q3 2021, with the addition open to the public in Q1 2022.

What you can do to plan and prepare

- Stay informed and sign up for alerts – seattle.gov/traffic
- Change your commute – tools at kingcounty.gov/getready
- Download the Ride2 Shuttle app - <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/programs-projects/innovation-technology/innovative-mobility/first-last-mile/ride2.aspx>
- If you're an employer, contact Commute Seattle for a transportation consultation for your business/organization - commuteseattle.com/sr99/
- Whenever possible, carpool.
- Leave extra time.

- Share information with your networks.
- Be safe, flexible, creative and patient.

Questions?

Seattle Department of Transportation

Phone: 206-684-7623

Email: 684-Road@seattle.gov

Website: seattle.gov/traffic

Twitter: @seattledot and @SDOTtraffic

Washington State Department of Transportation

24-hour Construction Hotline: 1-888-298-5463

Email: viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

Website: www.99tunnel.com

Twitter: @BerthaDigsSR99 and #Realign99

Commute Seattle

Phone: 206-613-3206

E-mail: SR99@commuteseattle.com

Website: www.commuteseattle.com/sr99/

Bus Changes



With all of the information around the closure of the viaduct, we wanted to highlight one impact you need to be aware of. King County Metro will detour a dozen SR99 routes serving about 30,000 riders. During the viaduct closure the routes will use a 4th Ave route that includes a southbound couplet on 2nd Ave Ext. After 4 – 5 weeks, the detour will move over to an interim pathway for 9 months – 1 year that utilizes 1st Ave S both north and southbound.

This [Seattle Times](#) article provides a good overview with the details.

King County Metro

Twitter: @kcmetrobus

Website: www.kingcounty.gov/getready

Neighborhood Construction Updates

Construction Roundup Pioneer Square Impacts

[Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project](#)

[Occidental Alley Infrastructure Improvements](#)

[Colman Dock Project](#)

For more detail on upcoming projects and events in the region see [SDOT's three week look ahead](#).



Center City Connector Streetcar

****No update as of 1/3/2019****

On March 30, Mayor Durkan directed the City of Seattle to halt the ongoing projects related to the **Center City Connector** streetcar, except for work on seismically vulnerable water mains in Pioneer Square.

The initial summary of findings was released on August 31 with further information on capital and operating costs.

[Learn more here](#)

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program

The big Realign99 highway closure is nearly upon us! This Friday, Jan. 4, the two SR 99 ramps near the stadiums close at 10 p.m. Closing the northbound on-ramp at Royal Brougham Way and the southbound off-ramp at South Atlantic Street gives crews time and space to begin working on the ramps connecting to the new tunnel.

The **full closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct** and SR 99 begins at 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. This closure will extend from South Spokane Street to Western Avenue. The first weekend of the full closure, crews will remove a small section of the northbound ramp to the viaduct alongside Railroad Way South. As a result, Railroad Way South will be closed that weekend, as well as one lane of First Avenue South.

For questions about the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, **[visit the website](#)** or send an email to **viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov**.

Press Highlights

January 2019

Highlights:

[Take a few last looks at the Alaskan Way Viaduct, through Seattle Sketcher's eyes](#) (Seattle Times)

Restaurant & Retail News:

[19 new Seattle-area restaurants and bars at the end of another boom year](#) (Seattle Times)

Arts & Culture News:

[Comic Relief: Artist Vikram Madam brings levity to the Seattle art scene](#) (Real Change)

[The top 11 Pioneer Square art shows to check out in January 2019](#) (the Stranger)

Find It! Fix It!

Have you seen an issue in the neighborhood, but didn't know how to report it to get it taken care of? "**Find It, Fix It**" is a smartphone app offering mobile users one more way to report selected issues to the City of Seattle. Reporting an issue is as easy as snapping a photo with your smartphone, adding detailed information, and hitting submit. Help us keep our neighborhood clean and well maintained. Be on the lookout to report graffiti, potholes, street lights out, abandoned cars, encampments, and other issues through the Find it, Fix it app, [online](#), or by calling 206-684-7587. If graffiti shows up on your property, make a police report by calling 206-625-5011.

