

# KEEPING DOWNTOWN SEATTLE MOVING



*Light Rail is on its way downtown*

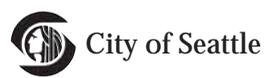
## Upcoming Changes to Prefontaine Place South and Fifth Avenue South to Keep Buses Moving Through Downtown

The Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel will close in September 2005 for up to two years, so it can be upgraded and retrofitted to carry passengers on both buses and light rail. All of the construction will occur inside the tunnel, but the closure will move the bus routes that currently travel in the tunnel to surface streets in downtown Seattle in the fall of 2005. Sound Transit, King County Metro Transit, the City of Seattle and Community Transit are implementing bus service changes and a \$16 million package of downtown street improvements to keep traffic flowing during the closure.

Sound Transit construction will require major modifications to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to accommodate Link light rail, necessitating the Tunnel's closure for up to two years beginning in September 2005. During the closure, Metro and Sound Transit buses that normally use the Tunnel will move to surface streets, primarily Third Avenue. There will also be a slight increase in the number of buses, and changes in the bus routes using Second and Fourth avenues. During this time, keeping buses moving through downtown and to and from the freeways will be the highest priority. While only two percent of downtown vehicles are buses, they carry more than 40 percent of the people commuting.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will be making surface improvements and modifications to Prefontaine Place South and Fifth Avenue South throughout most of 2005. These changes will expedite buses traveling to Third and Fourth avenues in south downtown, and to and from Interstate 5 and Interstate 90.

These changes will remain until Link light rail is up and running. Once the rail system is operational, they will be re-evaluated.

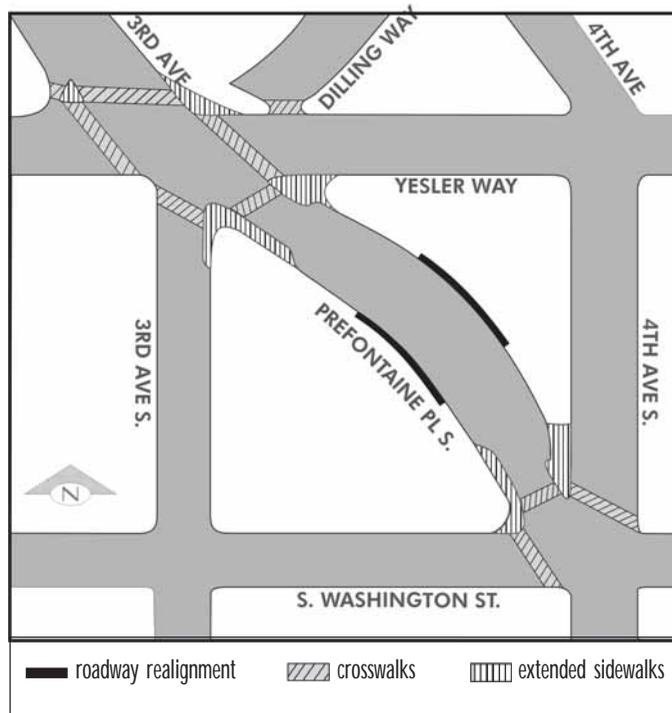


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## Prefontaine Place South Reconfiguration Project

This project will make changes to the street and sidewalk alignment, lane channelization, on-street parking and traffic signage to accommodate increased bus traffic during Sound Transit's Link light rail retrofit of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel.



The Prefontaine Place South roadway will be reconstructed and adjacent sidewalks will be extended to straighten the alignment.

Sidewalks around the intersection of Third Avenue and Yesler Way, and also the Fourth Avenue South and South Washington Street intersection will be extended to reduce pedestrian crossing distances.

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我们计划改造西雅图市中心南区街道。若欲了解详细情况，请在正常营业时间致电 206-398-5000。

시애틀 서부 다운타운 도로변경. 자세한 안내를 원하시면 영업시간 중에 206-398-5000 번호로 연락해 주십시오.

Изменения на улицах южной части центра Сиэтла. Чтобы получить дополнительную информацию, пожалуйста, позвоните по телефону 206-398-5000 в обычные рабочие часы.

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Cambios de calle en el sur del centro de Seattle. Para mayor información, por favor llame al 206-398-5000 durante horas normales de oficina.

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May mga pagbabago sa mga kalye sa South ng downtown Seattle. Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, mangyaring tawagan ang 206-398-5000 sa mga karaniwang oras ng trabaho.

Các thay đổi về đường lộ ở phía nam trung tâm thành phố Seattle. Muốn biết thêm chi tiết, xin gọi số 206-398-5000 trong giờ làm việc bình thường.

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The City of Seattle is sensitive to the needs of businesses for short-term parking for service and customer access. Every effort is being made to balance that with the need to manage load zones and transit movement. While on-street parking spaces may need to be removed in some areas, a significant amount of off-street parking exists. A map of off-street parking can be obtained at <http://www.trueguides.com/downtown/downtown.html> or by calling (206) 684-ROAD (684-7623).

## Business Assistance and Community Outreach

The City of Seattle is committed to working with property owners, businesses and those who use corridors affected by these improvements, to keep them informed of upcoming work; changes in the street as work progresses; and ways to maintain customer access.

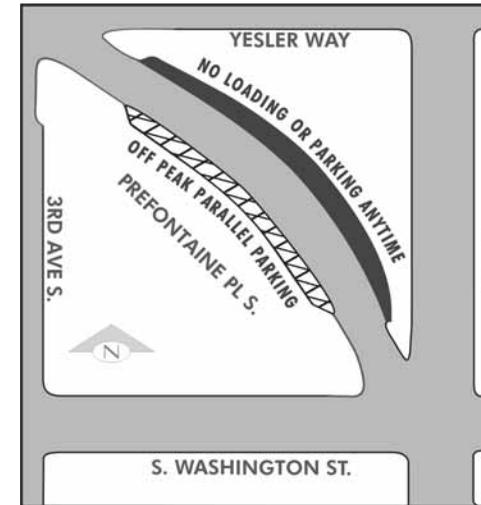
We will keep you informed of construction activities by providing advance notice through written construction updates, door-to-door visits, email, meetings and briefings.

We will also be working with the Seattle-King County Building Owners and Managers Association, the Downtown Seattle Association, and the Downtown District Council to provide information to the downtown community about this project.

For more information about SDOT's work in the South Downtown area and the E-3 Busway, please contact:

George Frost, SDOT Project Manager, (206) 615-0786 or [george.frost@seattle.gov](mailto:george.frost@seattle.gov)  
Liz Rankin, SDOT Communications Manager, (206) 684-8540 or [liz.rankin@seattle.gov](mailto:liz.rankin@seattle.gov)

For general information about other SDOT projects and services, please call (206) 684-ROAD (684-7623) or visit [www.seattle.gov/transportation](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation)

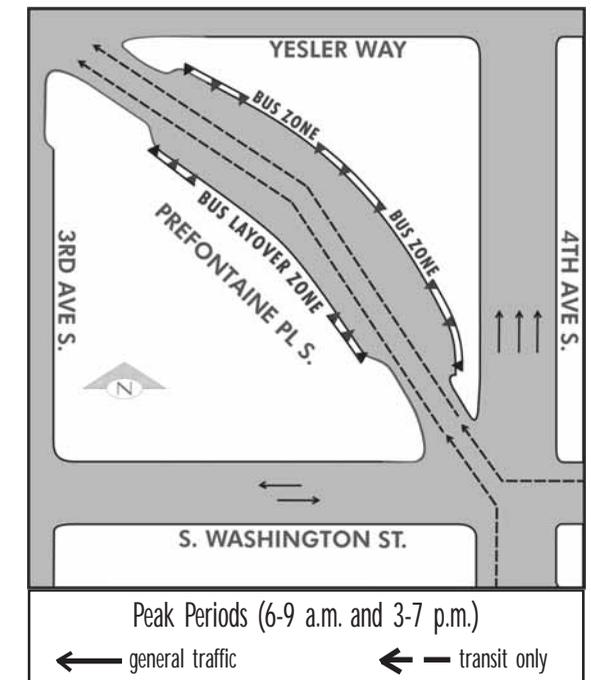


Commercial Load Zones and all on-street parking will be eliminated on the east side of Prefontaine Place South to extend bus zones.

On the west side of Prefontaine, on-street parking spaces will be realigned from angle to parallel spaces, resulting in a loss of some existing metered parking spaces.

## Peak Period Transit-only Lanes

During weekday peak periods (6-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m.), access to Prefontaine from Fourth Avenue South and South Washington Street will be restricted to transit and emergency vehicles only. On-street parking will be prohibited, and the street will be restricted to **transit vehicles only**.



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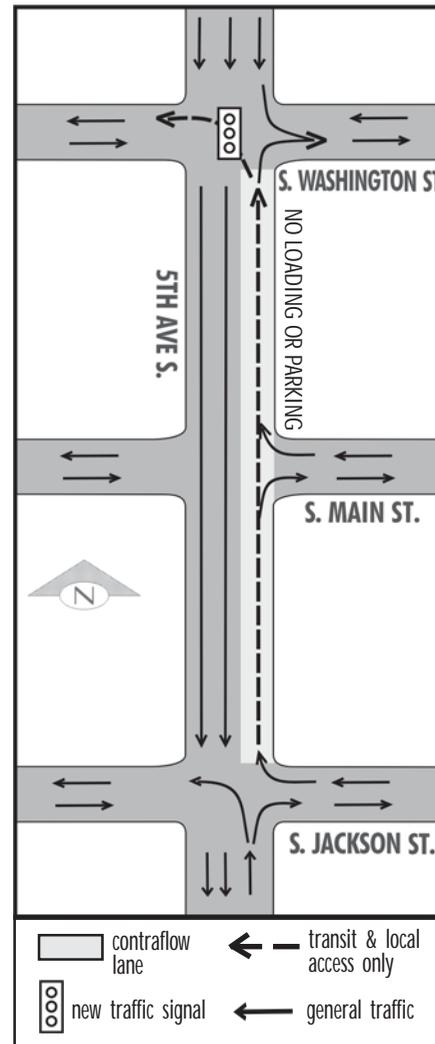
## Fifth Avenue South Contraflow Project

The Fifth Avenue South Contraflow Project will provide a northbound contraflow lane on Fifth Avenue South between South Jackson and South Washington streets. (A contraflow lane is a dedicated lane in the opposite direction on what would otherwise be a one-way street.) This lane will provide northbound buses on Fifth Avenue South with a more direct connection to Third or Fourth avenues via South Washington Street.

As a result, some metered parking spaces on the east side of Fifth Avenue between South Main and South Washington streets must be removed.

The contra-flow lane will be restricted to transit and local vehicle traffic only. General purpose traffic must turn either right or left off of Fifth Avenue South at Jackson Street. Local traffic will be allowed to use the contra-flow lane to turn right only from Fifth Avenue South at South Main Street and South Washington Street.

South Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues will be restricted to transit and emergency vehicles only during peak-commute times.



## E-3 Busway Connection to Downtown

The E-3 Busway (aligned with Fifth Avenue south of Royal Brougham Way) is used by express bus service from South Seattle and South King County to downtown Seattle. The E-3 Busway currently feeds directly into the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. Work will include a group of transit speed and reliability improvements to be constructed between Royal Brougham to the south, Washington Street to the north, Airport Way/Sixth Avenue to the east and Fourth Avenue to the west.

### Improvements include:

- \* Changes to Sixth Avenue between Airport Way and Royal Brougham Way for increased use of this street by buses;
- \* Operational changes at the intersection of Fifth Avenue South, Airport Way and South Dearborn Street for more efficient traffic flow;
- \* Installation of a new traffic signal at Fifth Avenue South and South Weller Street to balance transit flow with pedestrian and bicycle movement; and
- \* Installation of a new traffic island and north bound transit stop on the west side of Fourth Avenue South between South Jackson and South Main streets, to accommodate additional buses on Fourth Avenue.

