What's Up Next In The Seattle Squeeze

March 23rd Transit Service Change



Buses Out of Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel



On March 23 - 830 buses serving seven routes said goodbye to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and are now operating exclusively on surface streets.

Tunnel routes and some surface street routes have shifted to new pathways on **2nd**, **3rd**, **4th**, **5th** and **6th** Avenues.

Westlake Customer Service Office has closed

- Last operating business day was March 6th, 2019.
- ORCA cards can still be purchased or reloaded at nearby locations and at Westlake ticket vending machines.





Current Tunnel and Surface Routes	Surface Street Pathway
Tunnel Route 41 (all-day)	3 rd Ave (SB and NB)
Tunnel Route 74 (peak only) Surface Routes: 76, 77, 301, 308, 316	2 nd Ave (SB) 5 th /6th Ave (NB)
Tunnel Route 255 (all-day) Surface Routes: 252, 257, 311	5 th Ave (SB) 5 th /6 th Ave (NB)
Tunnel Route 101 (all-day)	2 nd Ave (SB)
Tunnel Route 102 (peak service only)	
Tunnel Route 150 (all-day)	4 th Ave (NB)
Tunnel Route 550 (all-day) (Sound Transit)	



What was our plan to continue to keep customers moving?



New pathways, capital improvements, and added service on routes with growing ridership demand

- Some surface street routes shift to a new transit-only pathway on 5th and 6th avenues reducing the number of buses on 4th avenue.
- Capital improvements made to pathways and bus stops through interagency partnerships.
- 3rd Avenue transit priority and all-door boarding.
- Additional trips on routes 15, 40, 102, 106, 111, 120, 204, 312 - with growing ridership began on March 23 to maintain service quality and reliability.





3rd Avenue All-Door Boarding

Similar to RapidRide routes, **Metro has expanded off board payment and all-door boarding to all 42 routes along 3rd Avenue** between Jackson and Denny Way and along the Westlake corridor through South Lake Union.

- ORCA readers are installed at 21 bus stops and will be installed at the remaining 10 bus stop locations using phased construction through 2019.
- Transit priority, a partnership with SDOT, reserves 3rd Avenue for buses and bikes from 6am-7pm every day.

Fare enforcement helping customers adapt to all-door boarding

• Fare enforcement officers are present on routes along 3rd avenue during the all-door boarding transition to help customers understand the new program and checking for valid fares through ORCA card or transfer slip.



Communication to riders and community



facebook



King County Metro Transit @kcmetro



& kingcounty.gov/m

King County Metro Kometrobus Providing transit service to 122 million riders a year across Seattle and King County, Tweets monitored intermittently weekdays Bam-6pm. Questions? 206-553-3000. © Seattle, King County, WA, USA





- ✓ Rider alerts
- ✓ Transit alerts
- ✓ Web, blog, social media, electronic notifications
- ✓ Stakeholder outreach/briefings
- ✓ Language LEP research and accommodations
- Printed materials on buses
- Media outreach
- ✓ Street teams and ambassadors between 3/16 and 3/25
- ✓ King County Metro and Sound Transit Customer Service
- Customized outreach messages to vulnerable communities
- ✓ Downtown Seattle Accessibility Map
 - Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange





Media and rider events



Media event on February 20 launching March Service Change communications

Media event on March 14 highlighting **all-door boarding**

Media event on March 21 to highlight the 5th and 6th avenue pathways

Rider event on March 23 at 12:50am at IDS to mark the last ride in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel



Immediate Benefits for Link Riders

- Current conditions create frequent delays for light rail riders
- Transition will enable riders to reliably enjoy 6-minute headways
- Headways will improve as the system and fleet expand in coming years





Communications to Metro and Sound Transit Riders



King County Metro Transit @kcmetro





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SoundTransit



Our Five Pillars for Downtown Mobility



Monitoring and managing our transportation system



Reducing the number of drive-alone trips downtown



Investing in transit and expanding access



Managing the public right-of-way





Department of Transportation

Managing our transportation system and ROW

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- Revise traffic signal timing operations when buses come out of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
- Support Metro and SPD deploying Uniformed Police Officers to help the traveling public adjust to street and signal changes
- Conduct real-time transportation system performance monitoring and adjustments



- Communicate with technology providers about closures and reroutes that do not fit into real-time feeds
- Proactively manage construction project schedules to minimize impacts to downtown streets, with a focus on bus-only lanes



Department of Transportation

Investing in transit and expanding access

PROJECT MAP





- Add midday and shoulder period trips to key Metro bus routes
- Partner with Metro to provide Ride2 service to SE Seattle light rail stations April

• Build the 5th/6th transit pathway

- 4th Avenue operates quicker and more reliability
- adds resiliency to system
- balances transit capacity on all available downtown transit pathways



Department of Transportation

Reducing drive-alone trips downtown and communications



Over the next five years, Seattle's downtown will be in a state of transition to meet the needs of our growing city. We're calling this the Seattle Squeeze.



- Partner with major employers to promote and expand flexible work options
- Leverage rideshare as a first-/last-mile service to transit hubs
- Implement communications strategy to reduce drivealone trips among small business employees
- Launch a campaign to promote small businesses and alternative modes of transportation
- Maintain <u>www.seattle.gov/traffic</u> as a single source for Seattle Squeeze information
- Coordinate communications with WSDOT, Metro, and Sound Transit



¹³ Department of Transportation

We still need the public's help

- Stay informed and sign up for alerts at www.seattle.gov/traffic
- Shift your travel time
- Bike or walk
- Carpool or vanpool
- Flex your work schedule to avoid peak travel times, work from home, postpone discretionary trips
- Be prepared for your new travel route



What comes next?









City of Seattle

Q&A and Contact Information Resources

King County Metro Jeff Switzer – 206-477-3833 Torie Rynning – 206-263-3233 Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange

City of Seattle 206-684-ROAD <u>www.seattle.gov/traffic</u> Sound Transit Scott Thompson – 206-903-7838 www.soundtransit.org/systemexpansion

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program 24-hour construction hotline: 1-888-298-5463 (AWV-LINE) viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov www.alaskanwayviaduct.org



SoundTransit

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