

WINTER WEATHER QUICK TIPS

DRESS FOR WINTER



CLEAR SIDEWALKS OF LEAVES, SNOW, AND ICE



LISTEN TO WEATHER FORECASTS



HELP NEIGHBORS:

- Clear sidewalks
- Groceries, supplies



SDOT REMOVES ICE AND SNOW FROM MAJOR STREETS



KNOW SNOW ROUTE BUS SCHEDULE TAKE THE BUS



OBEY "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



SNOW & ICE REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

Since the Puget Sound Convergence Zone results in such unpredictable weather, we rely on residents to clear nearby right-of-way space. In fact, Title 15 of the Seattle Municipal Code calls on property owners and contractors to clean, clear, or repair adjacent public right-of-way.

Under Title 15, it is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant to care for the sidewalks and other elements of the right-of-way next to private property in a timely manner. Clearing snow before it turns to ice is best, and having a shovel and a bag of street salt on hand is a good winter preparedness move.

What are five easy steps you can take to change your commute?

1. Plan ahead and expect more traffic on city streets and bridges.
2. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.
3. Try a new mode of transportation such as walking, biking or taking the bus or light rail. Avoid driving alone if possible.
4. Visit www.seattle.gov/traffic for the tools and information you need to get around during the #SeattleSqueeze.
5. Be patient and kind to your fellow travelers.

Together, the City of Seattle and WSDOT are working to minimize impacts as much as possible during this period of heavy traffic congestion.

TRAVEL IMPACTS - SEATTLE SQUEEZE - OUR WAY - WE'RE PREPARING

Beyond the winter months, how travelers get around is changing significantly year-round. The City of Seattle is experiencing a new era of tough traffic. Over the next five years, Seattle's downtown will be in a state of transition to meet the needs of our growing city. Transportation engineers have dubbed this transitional phase the Seattle Squeeze. During this period, folks who travel in and around downtown will be impacted by increased congestion, which will lead to more congestion with additional street closures and ongoing delays.

FOR ASSISTANCE AND INFO

TRANSIT RIDER INFORMATION

King County Metro Transit
Rider information (206) 553-3000
www.kingcounty.gov/metro
Twitter @kcmetrobus

Community Transit
(425) 353-7433 (RIDE)
www.communitytransit.org
Twitter @MyCommTrans

Pierce Transit
(253) 581-8000
www.piercetransit.org
Twitter @PierceTransit

Sound Transit
1 (888) 889-6368
www.soundtransit.org
Twitter @SoundTransit

Amtrak
1 (800) 872-7245
www.amtrak.com

SCHOOLS

Listen to local radio and television stations for information on school closures and schedule changes. Please be sure to keep the snow and ice information that your local school distributes.

Seattle Public Schools
www.seattleschools.org
Twitter @seapubschools

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGES

Information in languages other than English
www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm

SDOT WEBSITES WITH USEFUL INFORMATION

www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm
<https://lakewinterstorm.org/>
www.seattle.gov/travelers
sdotblog.seattle.gov
www.seattletraffic.org

WHEN STORMS ARE HEADED OUR WAY - WE'RE PREPARING

We will plow major streets. They are the streets that are most important for getting to major public institutions such as hospitals and schools. The City of Seattle is experiencing a new era of tough traffic. Over the next five years, Seattle's downtown will be in a state of transition to meet the needs of our growing city. Transportation engineers have dubbed this transitional phase the Seattle Squeeze. During this period, folks who travel in and around downtown will be impacted by increased congestion, which will lead to more congestion with additional street closures and ongoing delays.

WINTER STORMS - HERE'S OUR PLAN

In Seattle, winter can bring heavy rain, high winds, ice and snow. We're monitoring conditions.

- 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.
- Computerized sensors located on city bridges, and also ground surface sensors, 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.

STREET MAINTENANCE

Seattle Department of Transportation
(206) 684-7623 (ROAD)
www.seattle.gov/transportation
Twitter @seattledot

King County Road Services Division
Road Maintenance (206) 296-8100
www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/roads

Suburban Cities
Call the public works or roads department located in your city.

POWER OUTAGES

Seattle City Light
(206) 684-3000
www.seattle.gov/light
Twitter @SEACityLight

Puget Sound Energy
1 (888) 225-5773
www.pse.com
Twitter @PSETalk

HIGHWAY & FERRY CONDITIONS

Washington State Department of Transportation
Road conditions for state routes, call 511
www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic
Twitter @wsdot_traffic

Washington State Ferry Information
Statewide dial 511
In Seattle (automated) (206) 464-6400
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries
Twitter @wsferries

WINTER STORMS - HERE'S OUR PLAN

In Seattle, winter can bring heavy rain, high winds, ice and snow. We're monitoring conditions.

- 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.
- Computerized sensors located on city bridges, and also ground surface sensors, 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.

The City of Seattle takes a proactive approach, using best practices to respond to snow and ice: SDOT crews use trucks fitted with plows and salt-spreaders to keep major streets clear. Before the snow starts falling, the crews pre-treat key streets and bridges with anti-icer to help prevent ice from forming. As the snow begins to fall, the crews continue to drive their routes, treating the roadway with salt where needed. When approximately one inch of snow has accumulated, they begin plowing. During a snow event, a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system tracks the locations of the trucks. A map on SDOT's website shows where the trucks are at the current time and also which streets the trucks have already serviced. During a storm you will be able to see the map on our website at web6.seattle.gov/sdot/winterweathermap.

Seattle Department of Transportation
2019-2020



WHAT THE MAP SHOWS

SDOT's snow routes show the level of service planned for each street, not which streets will be plowed first. We will provide the highest level of service to the most significant streets within the City of Seattle that are maintained by the city. The state maintains I-5 and several bridges in Seattle. These streets were selected because they are the busiest streets that connect Seattle's neighborhoods with downtown and the greater Puget Sound region. They are the streets that are most important for getting to major public institutions such as hospitals and schools, the streets that are most frequently used by police, fire trucks and buses, and streets leading to Seattle's major employers. During a citywide snow storm, SDOT's strategy is to treat streets of both levels of service at the same time to keep traffic moving.

Remember, SDOT does not plow non-arterial streets.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

The map shows the different snow routes in two different colors, gold and emerald.

Gold Snow Routes: These are streets of regional importance for hospitals, buses, large trucks and major employers. SDOT's objective is to provide bare and wet pavement over all travel lanes within 12 hours of a significant lull in the storm.

Emerald Snow Routes: These are streets of citywide importance for hospitals, buses and general traffic. SDOT's objective is to provide bare and wet pavement for one lane in each direction within 12 hours of a significant lull in the storm.

COORDINATION WITH THE BUS SYSTEM

SDOT and King County Metro Transit have worked carefully to make sure that SDOT's snow routes meet the needs of the transit-riding public. The snow routes include the streets that Metro buses use when it snows.

OTHER STREETS

There are some streets that SDOT crews will not be able to plow or treat with salt. These are the lesser traveled streets, and streets on hills that often become unsafe for the public and for SDOT trucks during periods of ice and snow.

Our crews know which steep streets often become unsafe for driving when it snows. The crews store Street Closed signs on the sidewalks at the corners of these streets at the beginning of winter so they will be available when needed to close the streets. When Seattle Police Officers decide a street is unsafe for driving, they move the Street Closed signs into the middle of the road.

For your safety, it is important to obey the Street Closed signs even if a street looks safe to you. There may be ice under the snow, or there may be a trouble spot beyond your view.

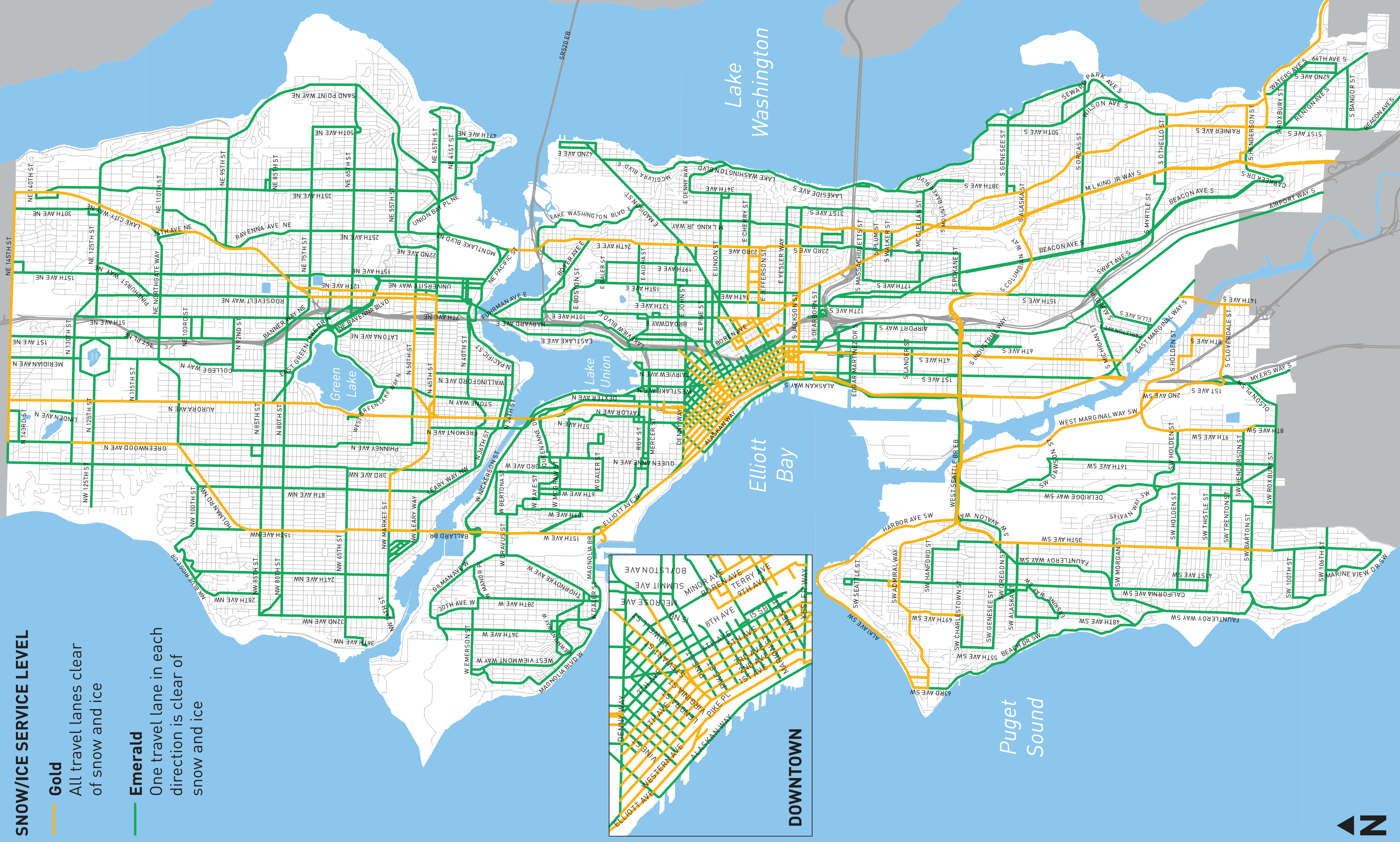
SNOW/ICE SERVICE LEVEL



All travel lanes clear of snow and ice



One travel lane in each direction is clear of snow and ice



Seattle
Department of
Transportation