



Seattle Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Grace Crunican, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SDOT Signs to Ban Hazardous Materials in Battery Street Tunnel Restricted on Viaduct During Peak Travel Periods

SEATTLE – This weekend the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will be posting signs to remind drivers that hazardous materials are restricted at all times in the Battery Street Tunnel and on the Alaskan Way Viaduct during weekday peak travel periods. SDOT's signs reflect the Seattle City Council's amendment to the Seattle Traffic Code to be consistent with Seattle Fire Code restrictions.

"We owe it to our citizens to keep our tunnels and elevated structures safe for travel," said Fire Chief Gregory Dean. "Restricting hazardous materials is an important step in preventing fires in, or on these structures."

Council's ordinance *prohibits transport of hazardous materials through the tunnel at all times*. Weekday restrictions will continue on the Alaskan Way Viaduct between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. If necessary, SDOT may impose additional restrictions.

"Public safety is our department's priority. We have to acknowledge that the Battery Street Tunnel is an enclosed area," said SDOT Director Grace Crunican. "The new restrictions help us protect the driving public."

SDOT will be replacing warning signs prohibiting flammable materials with signs barring hazardous materials. Signs will also indicate where trucks carrying these materials can exit the Viaduct or Aurora Avenue N to comply with regulations.

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Warning signs will be replaced at the following locations:

- Northbound Viaduct approach at the intersection of E Marginal Way S and Idaho Street
- Eastbound SW Spokane Street approaching northbound SR 99
- Northbound SR 99 north of Seneca Street off-ramp
- Northbound SR 99 south of 'Western Avenue Exit' sign

At a later date, new signs will be installed at the following locations:

Elliott Avenue on-ramp to southbound SR 99

Columbia Street on-ramp to southbound SR 99

- Western Ave on-ramp to northbound SR 99
- W Seattle Bridge to eastbound northbound SR 99
- First Ave S on-ramp to northbound SR 99

For more information about this restriction, please visit: www.seattle.gov/council/legdb.htm and search for Ordinance 121923.