

# South Spokane Street Viaduct Project

## MARCH 2009 UPDATE

### What is the South Spokane Street Viaduct Project, anyway?

After years of planning and anticipation, the South Spokane Street Viaduct is being widened and new on- and off-ramps installed. The project began in September 2008 with the relocation of a water main. Work on the new Fourth Avenue South off-ramp is beginning now (March 2009), and work on widening the upper roadway will begin this fall. Overall completion is slated for fourth quarter 2011.

The project extends from Highway 99 to 6th Avenue South along South Spokane Street. A new two-lane off-ramp will be installed for eastbound traffic leading to 4th Avenue South.

The upper roadway (called the Spokane Street Viaduct) will be widened by 41 feet and a new on- and off-ramp for westbound traffic will be constructed on 1st Avenue South. The wider, resurfaced upper roadway will include shoulders, westbound collector lanes for traffic entering and leaving the viaduct, and a third eastbound lane between SR 99 and 4th Avenue South.

The lower roadway (South Spokane Street itself) will be completely rebuilt in concrete to be more durable, with new curbs, sidewalks and better pedestrian and bicycle access.

### Why now?

This and several other traffic improvements in downtown and SODO are scheduled to be substantially complete BEFORE the start of major impacts from WSDOT's Alaskan Way Viaduct Project. The Spokane Street Project will significantly improve traffic flows and safety on this key east-west route for decades to come. Commuters, emergency services and freight traffic will all benefit from the wider and upgraded roadway on the viaduct, the new 4th Avenue South ramp (which bypasses surface rail tracks) and an upgraded lower roadway.

### FOURTH AVENUE OFF-RAMP - AERIAL VIEW



### Current & Upcoming Impacts

#### Eastbound Lower Spokane

At present, eastbound lower Spokane Street is closed to through traffic between 1st and 6th Avenues South. Bus routes normally turning east onto Spokane Street from the E-3 Busway are currently using 6th Avenue South to reach Spokane from Lander. These transit routes will return to the Busway when eastbound Spokane is reopened between 4th and 6th Avenues South in June 2009.

Eastbound Spokane Street between SR 99 and 1st Avenue South is scheduled to close to through traffic from July to October 2009, and the section between 1st and 4th South Avenues will remain closed until approximately October 2010.

#### Westbound Lower Spokane

Occasionally there may be short periods of single-lane closures on westbound lower Spokane Street this spring for survey and utility relocation work. Closure of all lanes on westbound Spokane between 6th and 1st Avenues South is planned to begin in September 2009, and between 1st Avenue and SR 99 in April 2010. Once those closures occur, reopening of lower Spokane to westbound traffic is not anticipated until the project is completed in December 2011.

#### Access to and from the Upper Viaduct

The existing westbound off-ramp onto 4th Avenue South will be demolished in October 2009 and the westbound on-ramp, just west of 1st Avenue South, will be removed in April 2010.

The existing eastbound off-ramp onto Spokane Street at 1st Avenue South will not be affected and will remain in service during and after construction. The new eastbound off-ramp onto 4th Avenue South will be opened to traffic in December 2010, but will close again for a few months in the 3rd quarter of 2011.

No extended closures are expected in either direction on the Spokane Street Viaduct itself during the project.

### VIADUCT BEFORE AND AFTER



### How do I get more information?

- » Check out <http://www.seattle.gov/spokane> for details
- » Sign-up for project email updates on the project website
- » Call the project information line at (206) 684-4747
- » Request a project briefing for your group
- » Send specific questions and requests to **Art Brochet**, [art@spokaneproject.info](mailto:art@spokaneproject.info)