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For Immediate Release

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Mercer Corridor Project: First Weekend Closures of I-5 on- and off-ramps at Mercer Street Begin April 16

SEATTLE—The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) today announced the first full weekend closures of the I-5 on- and off-ramps at Mercer Street as part of the Mercer Corridor Project. The first closure is scheduled to begin at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, through 1:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18.

During the closure of the I-5 on- and off-ramps at Mercer Street, SDOT and the Washington State Department of Transportation have determined that a concurrent closure of the I-5 on-ramp at University Street is necessary to improve safety and provide more efficient traffic flow around the closed Mercer Street exit lane. All detour routes will be clearly marked to support traffic flow around the closures. For this first weekend closure, times have been reduced from the anticipated standard hours of 11:00 p.m. on Friday to 5:00 a.m. on Monday in an effort to limit, as much as possible, the impact of this first closure.

Three additional full weekend closures are tentatively scheduled and closure hours are anticipated to be Friday at 11:00 p.m. to Monday at 5:00 a.m.; further notification will be provided as the dates are finalized:

- May 6 – May 9
- May 13 – May 16
- May 20 – May 23

Mercer Street ramp closures are required for utility installations on Fairview Avenue N at Mercer Street, including water, sewer, electrical and communications line installations, as well as to align the existing on- and off-ramps with the future westbound lanes of Mercer Street. To accommodate this work, Fairview Avenue N will be closed between Mercer Street and Valley Street during the ramp closures.

During those weekends, Metro Transit plans to reroute its bus service on routes 70, 71, 72, 73 and 83 off of Fairview Avenue starting at 11 p.m. Friday night and lasting up to 5 a.m. Monday. The buses will be rerouted via Eastlake Avenue East: northbound between Mercer Street and Galer Street; and southbound from Galer Street to Thomas Street. Rerouted buses will serve posted stops on Eastlake Avenue, but will not make any stops on the cross streets between Eastlake and Fairview.



SDOT anticipates approximately twenty weekend closures over the course of the project, which is scheduled for completion in 2013. Closures are being closely coordinated with other construction and special events in the area, including activities at the Seattle Center.

Travelers are encouraged to carpool and use alternate modes of transportation. Transit information can be found at:

- King County Metro at www.kingcounty.gov/metro, or by calling 206-553-3000
- Sound Transit at www.soundtransit.org
- Community Transit at www.commtrans.org

A media availability session will be held on: **April 13, 2011 at 10 a.m.** (details to follow) and detour route maps and project materials will be distributed. Media inquiries should be directed to Richard Sheridan (SDOT) at 206-684-8540 or richard.sheridan@seattle.gov.

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