



PRESS RELEASE FROM CITY OF SEATTLE

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Construction of Seattle's new waterfront continues with traffic changes on Alaskan Way S between S King and Columbia Streets happening as early as December 11

SEATTLE (December 8, 2020) – As early as December 11, traffic will shift to the east side of Alaskan Way S between S Dearborn and Columbia streets. Vehicles will shift from the existing roadway on the west side to the newly constructed portion of the permanent roadway.

As a part of this shift, S Washington Street will be reconnected to northbound Alaskan Way S, and will be a single-lane, westbound-only street between Alaskan Way S and 1st Avenue S. S Washington Street will remain closed to through traffic between Alaskan Way S and 1st Avenue S until we complete the traffic shift, expected to wrap up on Monday morning, December 14.

These traffic changes are happening as part of the construction of the City's [Waterfront Seattle](#) Program. They are happening now to allow for construction of the future southbound lanes of the new Alaskan Way, promenade and protected bike path. Alaskan Way S will remain open with two lanes in each direction during peak hours.

Generally, traffic will be shifted to the permanent roadway over time, as sections of the new Alaskan Way are completed and opened. Another shift, between Columbia and Union streets, is expected in late 2021.

"This is the first of several planned roadway shifts and a huge milestone towards completing the Waterfront Seattle program," said Angela Brady, Deputy Director of the Office the Waterfront and Civic Projects. "The opening of these new lanes and sidewalks will allow all who visit, live, work or travel along the waterfront to begin to experience the accessibility improvements for all modes of travel we are constructing from the stadiums to Belltown."

Construction started in fall of 2019 and has included the removal of viaduct footings, installation of new electrical, water, storm drainage, and sewer utilities and paving the new roadway and sidewalk. Thank you to all our partners for their continued support of the Waterfront Seattle Program.

Traffic changes to the first block of S Washington Street are part of future street improvements coming to Pioneer Square on portions of S Main, S Washington and S King streets and Yesler Way between Alaskan Way S and 2nd Avenue. This is being done in support of the [Pioneer Square East West Pedestrian Improvements](#) project, which will improve sidewalks and ADA accessibility, as well as increase greenery on these east-west streets. This project is currently at 60% design and is anticipated to begin construction in 2022. [View our concept design](#) to learn about the planned pedestrian improvements.