

WSDOT and WSP ask Drivers to Delay Travel Plans if Possible

Local News

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OLYMPIA — As a large winter storm system works its way through Western Washington, drivers are asked to delay travel if possible. "If you can, delay travel until Tuesday or Wednesday," said Chris Christopher, Maintenance Director for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). "Conditions continue to deteriorate today, especially in the Puget Sound area. If you have to be on the road, slow down, drive for conditions and let WSDOT trucks through." Christopher said WSDOT has all its crews out, but it's difficult to clear the roads in high-traffic areas. "If you must drive, slow down and increase your following distance," said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. "Leave early so you won't be tempted to rush and risk a collision." Christopher said weather reports indicate the storm should move out of Puget Sound and Southwest Washington area Tuesday.

"But we will still see low temperatures and the snow should continue in the mountain passes. Those traveling for Thanksgiving need to be prepared and carry chains," he said. WSDOT is ready for the expected increased traffic for the Thanksgiving holiday. Drivers should [be prepared](#), check travel and roadway conditions on [WSDOT's website](#) and pack their winter weather supplies, including tire chains. For more winter driving tips, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter. **Know Before You Go** WSDOT offers several ways to get up-to-date traffic and construction information from our [website](#) before you leave your home or office. Look at [weather forecasts and road temperatures](#) throughout the state. A [color-coded map](#) shows statewide traffic conditions. Call 511. WSDOT's driver information phone line provides real-time traffic, incident and closure information. TTY users can call 1-800-833-6388. **On the Road** Overhead and roadside electronic signs provide emergency and incident alerts and, in some Seattle-area locations during rush hours, point-to-point travel times. Highway advisory radio allows drivers to tune in to hear updates when the flashing lights along the highway are activated.

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WSDOT keeps people, businesses and the economy moving by operating and improving the state's transportation systems. To learn more about what we're doing, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/news for pictures, videos, news and blogs. Real time traffic information is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic or by dialing 5-1-1.