

As summer vacation ends, long-term lane closures on I-90 begin

Local News

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Posted on : September 9, 2009 at 5:12 am

EASTON, Wash. - Just when you thought construction was winding down for the season, crews are getting ready to kick it into high gear on I-90 after Labor Day. As part of an \$18.4 million Recovery Act-funded project, WSDOT and contractor crews will replace several miles of deteriorating concrete panels in the right lane of westbound I-90, between Easton and Bullfrog Road (www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/lkeastontobullfrogwb), about 20 miles east of Snoqualmie Summit.

WSDOT waited until heavy summer travel volumes subsided to help reduce delays and congestion for travelers on this critical cross-state route. The work and lane closures are still expected to add an up to an hour to drivers' commute times across the pass.

The following restrictions will be in place 24 hours a day on I-90 from Sept. 8 to early November, between Easton (milepost 69) and Bullfrog Road (milepost 79):

Eastbound traffic will be restricted to one lane starting Sept. 8.

Eastbound and westbound traffic will be restricted to one lane starting Sept. 13.

Westbound traffic will be rerouted to the eastbound side of the road, as early as Sept. 16.

On weekends, three lanes will be open: Two lanes eastbound Friday through Sunday morning; and two lanes westbound Sunday morning through early Monday morning.

"Our crews are working with very tight timelines to deliver this critical preservation project," said Washington Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond. "We purposely waited to do these closures after the Labor Day weekend when there are fewer travelers on the pass. Now it's a race against the weather and winter storms."

Drivers are advised to plan ahead, pack their patience, and plan for an extra hour to travel over Snoqualmie Pass through November. Drivers can sign up to receive e-mail updates (www.wsdot.wa.gov/emailupdates) as conditions change on I-90 between Snoqualmie Summit and Ellensburg.

For more information about the I-90 Lake Easton to Bullfrog Project or other Recovery Act- funded projects, please visit our project Web page: www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus