

# Hood Canal Bridge Project Newsletter

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## About the project

Each day between 15,000 and 20,000 vehicles cross the Hood Canal Bridge, a 1.5-mile link between the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas. The bridge, which is vital to the economic and social success of the region, will be closed for six weeks May through June 2009 while the east half is replaced. When finished, the Hood Canal Bridge will feature wider, safer lanes, and improved mechanical connections for more reliable bridge openings.

## Helping drivers get around

After environmental concerns prompted WSDOT to adjust its plans for the east side location of the passenger-only water shuttle from Port Gamble to Lofall, a survey was launched to gain public input on that proposal and gauge interest in another route.

WSDOT is polling residents on [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com) about which transportation route across the Hood Canal would best serve their needs. Information on how the options will affect travel times between the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas and a map of the routes each would follow is included in the on-line survey. The survey will be open until June 6, 2008.

WSDOT will compile results, taking into consideration what is affordable and what plan has the highest overall benefit to residents, visitors and the business community.

The Hood Canal Bridge Team is focusing its efforts toward addressing this critical issue in order to complete the work before the May-June 2009 bridge closure.

[Read the press release...](#)

## Partnering with the community

The Washington State Department of Transportation is working with the community to let people know the transportation options available during the six-week 2009 closure.

[Learn about the options...](#)

In recent weeks, WSDOT representatives have delivered presentations to the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Committee, Quilcene-Brinnon Chamber of Commerce, Peninsula Regional Transportation Policy Organization, Mason

County Department of Emergency Management and the Olympic Educational Service District as well as hosted informational booths at Viking Fest in Poulsbo and ShrimpFest in Brinnon.

With the May-June 2009 closure less than a year away, WSDOT's mission of public outreach is more important than ever.

## Meeting construction milestones

- The Hood Canal Bridge Project is currently 73 percent complete as crews at Concrete Technology Corporation (CTC) in Tacoma continue work on pontoons U and W. The two structures represent the fourth and final cycle of pontoon construction.
- Construction crews recently assembled the draw span at the Port of Seattle. The first new transition truss was completed April 22, at Oregon Iron Works in Vancouver, Wash. The 280-foot-long, 70-foot-wide, 35-foot-tall truss will connect the bridge's pontoons to an approach span in Jefferson County when it is installed in May-June 2009. [View the live construction site cameras...](#)

## Upcoming milestones include:

- **Finishing cycle four pontoons** at CTC. This work, scheduled to wrap up in August, will mark the completion of new pontoon construction for the Hood Canal Bridge's east half. The cycle four pontoons, U and W, will then be floated to Seattle for outfitting and connection.
- **Floating pontoons from Seattle** to the bridge site, putting them in place, connecting them together and installing the transition spans will take place in May-June 2009. The bridge will be closed to traffic during this work.
- **Keeping traffic moving** to and from the Olympic Peninsula during the May-June 2009 Hood Canal Bridge closure is a paramount issue for travelers. WSDOT's mitigation plan specifically addresses drivers' top concerns voiced in the 2003 Hood Canal Bridge User Survey and public opinion research conducted in 2007: getting to their destination on time; knowing the fastest routes; avoiding being stuck in traffic; and getting help to make their travel easier.
- **Upgrading the mechanical and electrical systems** on the west half to function efficiently with the new east half is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.

[Find out more about construction progress...](#)

## Get involved

Organizations are already helping prepare for the spring 2009 closure by learning more about the travel options available, planning trips ahead of time and sharing closure information with others. Getting involved in the project is easy:

- Sign up to receive project e-mail updates at [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com)
- Schedule a bridge or construction site tour for your group
- Post a display board at your office or workplace
- Request a speaker from the Hood Canal Bridge Project team to speak to your members or colleagues

- [Find out more](#)

## Contact us

Do you have ideas about how to share information about the closure? Contact the communications team:

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