

Overview

Interstate 5 through downtown Seattle is the backbone of the city, moving people and goods through the Greater Puget Sound region and beyond. At 60 years old, it's also the most heavily used portion of I-5 in the state, with noticeable wear and tear. The Ship Canal Bridge alone had 49 emergency repairs within just one year, from August 2022-2023. Since 2019, it has had nearly 200 emergency repairs.

Preserving I-5 is vital to everyday life and the regional economy. Through the I-5 Yesler Way to Northgate project, WSDOT will resurface bridge decks on the I-5 Ship Canal Bridge and through downtown Seattle, replace concrete panels and aging bridge expansion joints and repair and repave approximately 30 ramps. Major construction will occur for long periods of time over the next three years, from spring 2025 to fall 2027.

Benefits

Maintaining our existing infrastructure is essential to keep people and goods moving safely through downtown Seattle. This project will help:

- Reduce the likelihood of serious incidents.
- Reduce unplanned emergency repair closures.
- Avoid increased costs for work in the future.
- Extend the life of the highway.

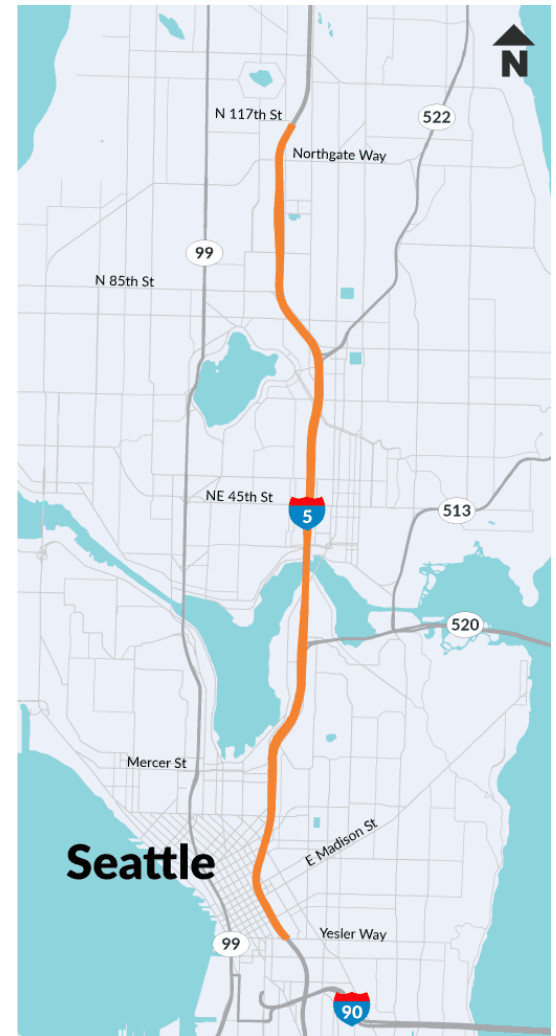
What to expect

Early construction includes overnight lane reductions, with a double-lane work zone on I-5 for nine months each year beginning in spring 2025 through 2027. The long-term work zone will reduce sections of I-5 to two lanes on the Ship Canal Bridge and south to Yesler Way. The work zone will be in place on one direction of I-5 at a time. The opposite direction of the freeway will remain fully open. The express lanes will support travel in the direction of the work zone. Full weekend directional closures of I-5 are needed when crews install concrete barriers to set the double-lane work zone and then remove the barrier after crews are done with the work.

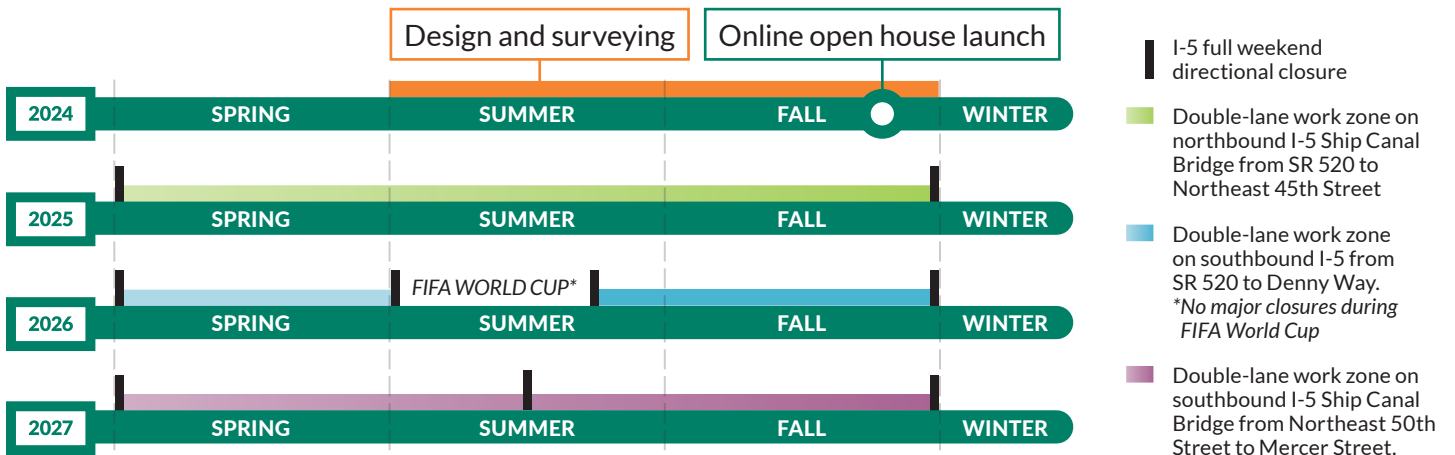
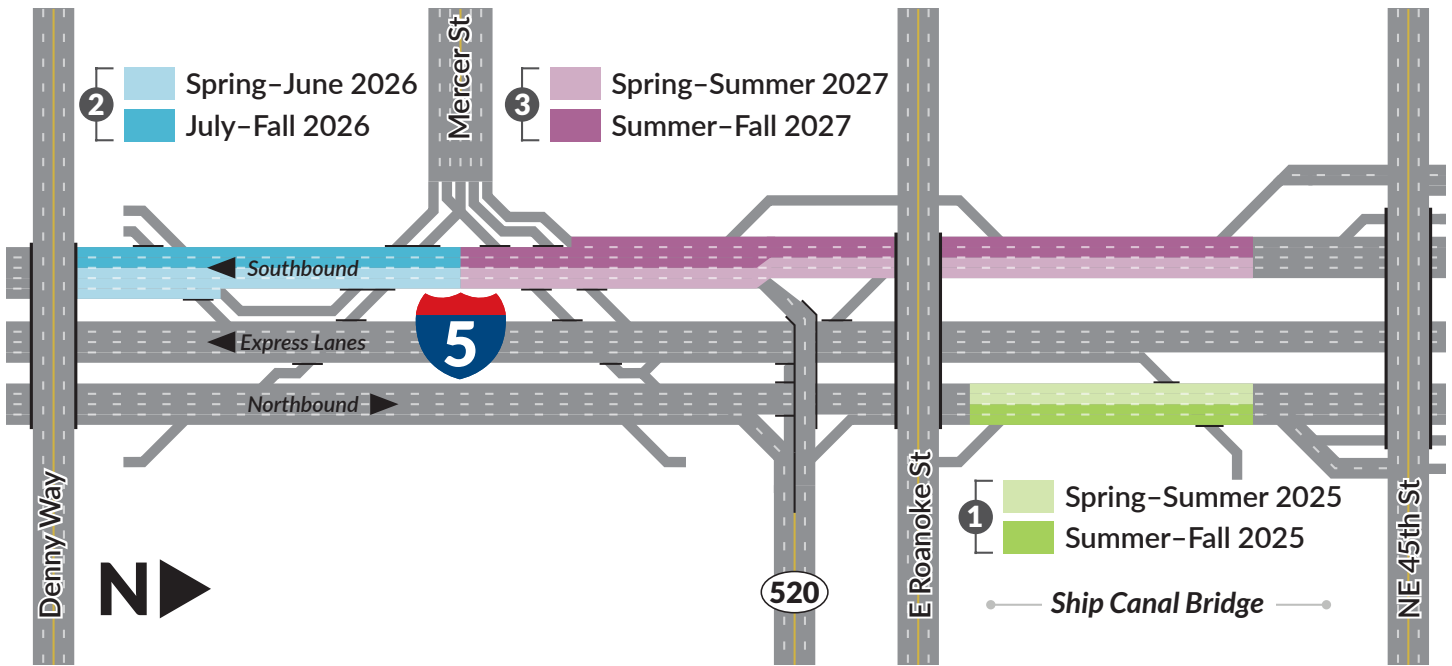
Travelers who use I-5 should anticipate significant traffic back-ups when the double-lane work zone begins in spring 2025. The work will pause during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Safety and efficiency

The double-lane work zone on I-5 is necessary to keep people working and the traveling public safe during construction. The permanent, barrier-separated, double-lane work zone means drivers know what to expect when driving through the project area and workers are more protected from potential collisions. This approach also allows crews to work during daytime hours. Working only nights or weekends would extend the project timeline to at least 10 years.



Project map and timeline



Funding

This \$203 million project is made possible through federal funds from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the 2003 Transportation Partnership Account (TPA) and the 2005 Nickel Program.



Stay connected

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