



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 305 Agate Pass Bridge Cleaning

February 2017

What's Happening?

As part of WSDOT's responsibility to maintain and inspect bridges along state highways, the Agate Pass Bridge on State Route 305 will be cleaned in February, 2017. The work will require daytime single-lane closures across the bridge on Monday through Thursday, Feb. 13-16, and again on Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 21-24.

How will WSDOT manage traffic during the bridge cleaning?

WSDOT chose hours for the lane restrictions based on traffic volumes and ferry use. Single-lane alternating traffic will be controlled by flaggers on both sides of the bridge, and law enforcement personnel will control traffic at the SR 305/Suquamish Way intersection. Pedestrians will be escorted across the bridge during work hours. Accommodations will be made for emergency vehicles.

What can drivers expect?

SR 305 drivers can expect delays up to 30 minutes during the Agate Pass Bridge cleaning work. WSDOT advises drivers to minimize discretionary trips and avoid the bridge during the work hours if possible.

Traffic Impacts

- **Single-lane alternating traffic.**
 - **8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Monday, Feb. 13 through Thursday, Feb. 16

AND

Tuesday, Feb. 21 through Friday, Feb. 24

No work on weekends or President's Day

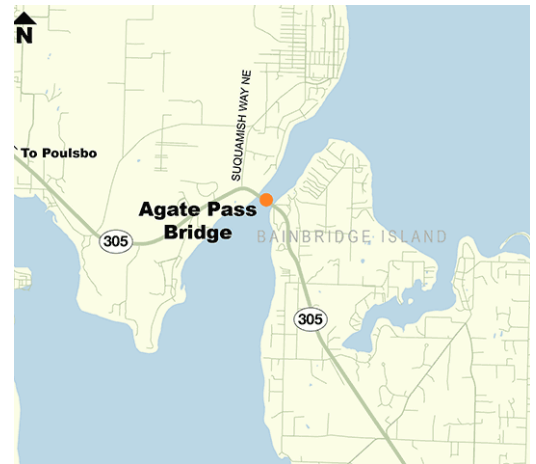
Where can I get more information?

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Why isn't the work taking place at night?

Safety is WSDOT's #1 priority. We want to ensure that nothing, not crews, equipment, the driving public or the bridge, are damaged or injured.

Crews will thread an articulated boom through the steel truss members of the bridge to reach very tight areas that must be cleaned by hand and then



Agate Pass Bridge on State Route 305 in Kitsap County

flushed. Daylight is absolutely necessary to ensure that the maneuvering is accurate. Crews also need to be able to see and communicate with each other for efficiency and safety. The work is labor-intensive and multiple crews will be on the bridge simultaneously. Working at night introduces unacceptable safety risks and inefficiencies.

How will the bridge be cleaned?

Crews will use at least two Under-Bridge-Inspection-Trucks (UBITs) and other equipment to reach various areas of the bridge. They will remove accumulations of debris by hand, followed by a low-pressure water flush.

In addition to cleaning the bridge, crews will remove and treat rust areas with protective paint and perform other maintenance duties. Bridge engineers will also perform an in-depth federally-mandated inspection.

Other questions...

Why is the work being done in February?

February was chosen for several reasons. Peregrine falcons, a protected species, have historically nested on the bridge and February avoids their nesting season. February also has lower traffic volumes than summer travel months when bridge work had previously taken place. This bridge-cleaning activity has become an annual event in WSDOT's ongoing efforts to maintain the bridge.

Will the Bainbridge Island Ferry run be affected?

WSDOT maintenance crews will monitor ferry boat landings to minimize delays to motorists exiting each ferry. The ferry schedule will not be affected, however drivers are advised to give themselves extra time when driving to the terminal.

When was the last time the Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned?

The Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned and inspected in February, 2016. That effort took 11 days, during which time crews removed dirt and debris, and addressed numerous maintenance needs.

Why is WSDOT cleaning the bridge again so soon?

The bridge cleaning effort has become an annual task, based on an agreement between WSDOT and the Department of Ecology. The agreement allows bridge crews to wash the bridge by flushing water over it after large amounts of debris have been hand-removed, provided this work is done annually. In an earlier pilot project, pre- and post-cleaning water tests by DOE both upstream and downstream of the bridge showed only minimal changes to water quality, well below environmental thresholds, with this cleaning method.

Previous to the agreement, the 1970 Clean Water Act required WSDOT to fully encase the bridge before cleaning it. Encasement is a cost-prohibitive endeavor that prevented WSDOT from cleaning the bridge for two decades.

How many commuters use the bridge each day?

On average the Agate Pass Bridge is used by 22,000 vehicles each 24-hour day. During the seven hours between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., SR 305 carries about 9,200 vehicles across the bridge.



Crews will use Under-Bridge-Inspection Trucks (UBITs) to clean, inspect and maintain the Agate Pass Bridge in February 2017.

How will this bridge work affect pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the bridge?

For their own safety, pedestrians will be escorted across the bridge while work and lane restrictions are in progress. WSDOT advises pedestrians to anticipate delays. Bicyclists will be allowed to cross the bridge in advance of waiting vehicles.

Is this work weather sensitive?

Yes. Freezing rain, snow or high winds could delay the work. Normal rain will not.

Why is cleaning the bridge so important?

Cleaning the bridge is a critical component of inspection and maintenance activities. Dirt, other organic debris and rust can hide potential maintenance problems that, if not addressed, can shorten the bridge's useful life.

When was the bridge built?

The Agate Pass Bridge was built in 1950.

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