

# How to use the I-5 express lanes during Revive I-5 northbound lane closures and reductions

## What's happening on I-5 through Seattle?

Starting as early as Jan. 9, 2026, WSDOT will begin the next phase of the Revive I-5: Ship Canal Bridge Preservation project on northbound I-5. This will begin months-long northbound I-5 two-lane reductions across the Ship Canal Bridge to repair and resurface the bridge deck. WSDOT will also need to use weekend-long full northbound I-5 closures from I-90 to Northeast 45th Street to set up and remove work zones across the bridge.

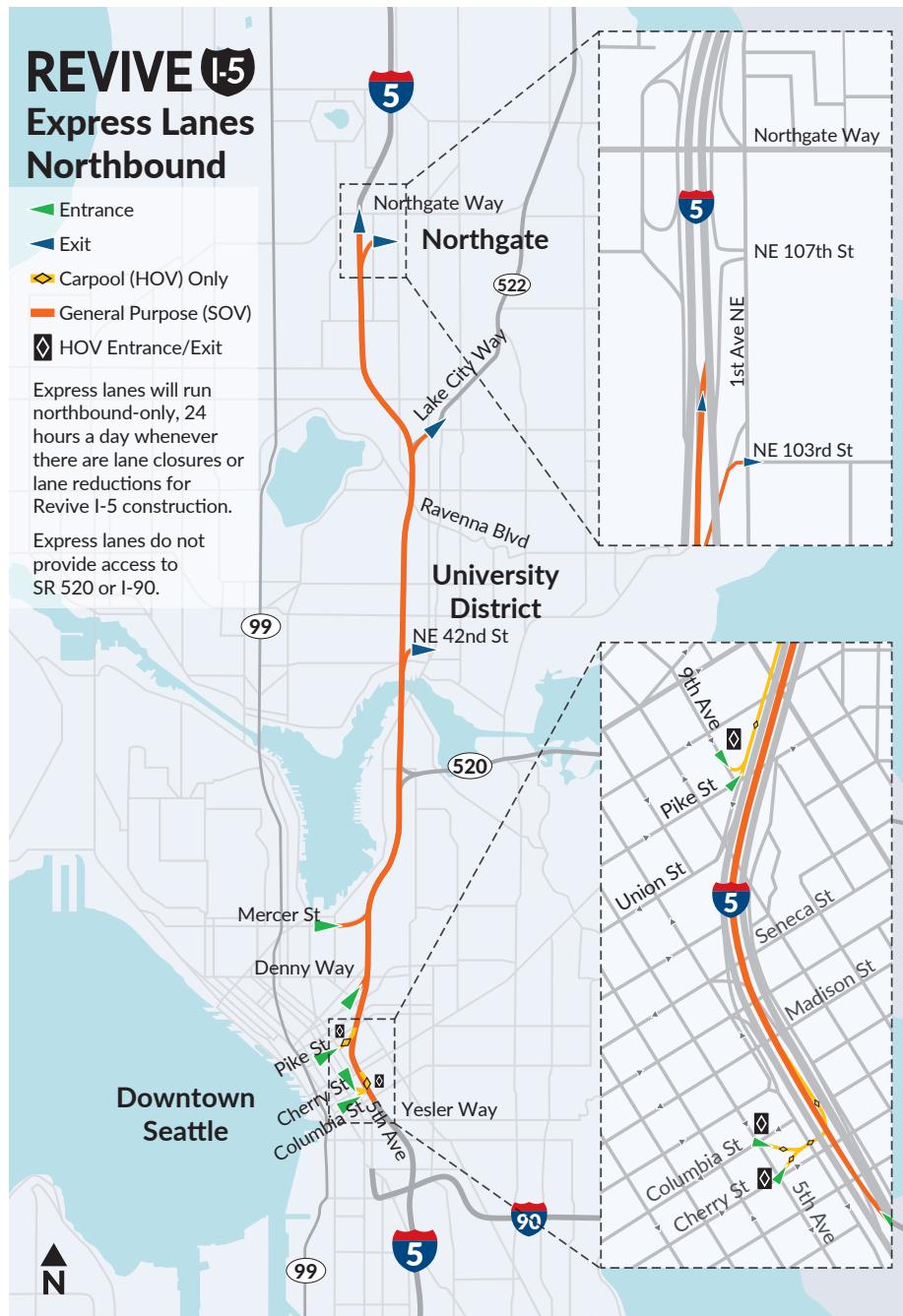
## Schedule of closures and reductions

- Weekend-long full closure as early as Jan. 9 - 12\*
- Months-long two-lane reduction as early as Jan. 12 - June 5#
- Weekend-long full closure June 5 - 8\*
- June 8 - July 10 (all lanes open for FIFA World Cup)
- Weekend-long full closure July 10 - 13\*
- Months-long two-lane reductions July 12 - end of 2026#
- Weekend-long full closure TBD (end of 2026)\*

\* Full northbound I-5 closures extend from I-90 to Northeast 45th Street

# Two-lane reductions extend from SR 520 to Northeast 45th Street

Weekend-long full closures of northbound I-5 are weather-dependent so dates may shift if conditions are not favorable to restripe lanes.



Express lanes will run northbound only, 24 hours a day whenever there are lane closures or lane reductions for Revive I-5 construction. Express lanes will not run southbound so expect delays, especially during the morning hours.

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## Who can use the express lanes?

Anyone traveling northbound I-5 can use the express lanes. However, there are height and passenger requirements:

- Vehicles over **14 feet 7 inches** cannot use the express lanes (e.g., oversized RVs, equipment trailers).
- Some on and off-ramps are high occupancy vehicle only (HOV-only). That means there must be two or more people riding in the vehicle. Be sure to observe all entrance and exit signage for HOV-only.

## Where are northbound I-5 express lane entrances?

When traveling northbound, enter the express lanes from mainline I-5 around Seattle's Chinatown-International District (enter from the left) with additional entrances from downtown Seattle. Northbound I-5 express lane entrances:

- Fifth Avenue/Columbia-Cherry Street (HOV-only)
- Ninth Avenue/Pike-Pine Street (HOV-only)
- Denny Way
- Mercer Street

## Where are northbound I-5 express lane exits?

The first exit on northbound running express lanes is at Northeast 42nd Street in the University District.

Northbound I-5 express lane exits:

- Northeast 42nd Street
- Lake City Way Northeast
- 1st Avenue Northeast/Northeast 103rd Street

Express lanes return to mainline I-5 at Northgate. There is no access to SR 520 from the express lanes.

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