

# 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?

In 2026, WSDOT is completing the next phase of the Revive I-5: Ship Canal Bridge Preservation project on northbound I-5. This work will require months-long northbound I-5 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.

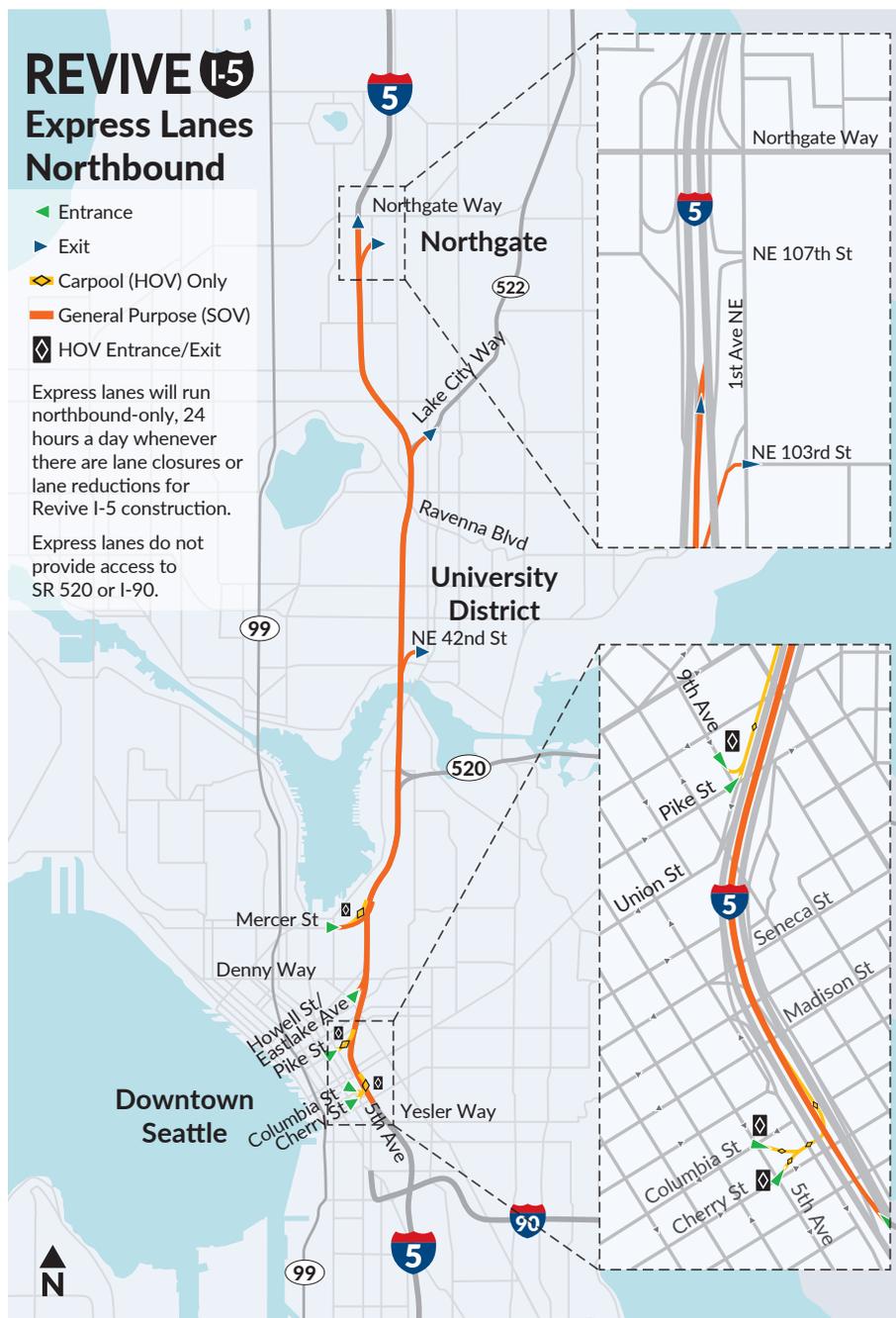
## Schedule of closures and reductions

- 🟢 Weekend-long full closure Jan. 9 - 12\*
- Months-long two-lane reduction Jan. 12 - June 5#
- Weekend-long full closure June 5 - 8\*
- Work zone removed for FIFA World Cup June 8 - July 10
- Weekend-long full closure July 10 - 13\*
- Months-long two-lane reductions July 12 - end of 2026#
- Weekend-long full closure (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 restrictions and some ramps have 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 HOV-only entrance and exit signage.

## 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)
- Howell Street/Eastlake Avenue
- 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
- Northgate Way/Northeast 103rd Street

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

## Why will express lanes run northbound only, 24 hours a day?

When northbound I-5 is reduced from four lanes to two, as it is during this phase of construction, even a single collision or disabled vehicle can significantly disrupt traffic. Keeping the express lanes operating northbound helps reduce the risk of a full northbound shutdown and gives traffic operators greater flexibility to respond to incidents.

The value of the express lanes is not measured by how full they look. They are valued as a system-balancing tool, held in reserve, to absorb incidents, surges and breakdowns as conditions change throughout the day.

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