



PIONEER SQUARE TRAFFIC REVISION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

S WASHINGTON ST TRAFFIC REVISION

Q: Why does S Washington St need to become one-way westbound between 1st Ave S and Alaskan Way S this December?

Current Alaskan Way construction includes new intersections for S Washington and S Main streets that will fit with the new Pioneer Square East West Pedestrian Improvements. S Washington St will change to a one-way westbound street between 1st Ave S and Alaskan Way S as a result. S Main St between 1st Ave S and Alaskan Way S is temporarily a two-way street for local access while the intersection at Alaskan Way S is closed. S Main St will reopen as part of the traffic shift and return to being one-way eastbound.

Q: Will S Washington St become one-way permanently?

Yes, the conversion to one-way is an early step in implementing a bigger set of pedestrian improvements in summer 2022 through the Pioneer Square East West Pedestrian Improvements project. For more information on those pedestrian improvements visit our [project page](#).

Q: Will this traffic revision change parking and loading zones on S Washington St?

Yes, parking and loading will be temporarily prohibited for up to 1 week during the conversion. Then, once S Washington St reopens at Alaskan Way S, parking restrictions currently in place for construction will be removed and parking and loading areas will return to both sides of the street.

Q: Does this traffic revision impact areaways?

No, our work on S Washington St does not impact areaways in Pioneer Square. The current phase of the Pioneer Square Areaways program is focusing on S Jackson St curb lane restrictions and S Main St upgrades. For more information visit their [project page](#).

Q: What changes will be made on Alaskan Way?

Alaskan Way traffic will shift to the east side, where the viaduct formerly stood, between S King and Columbia streets. Two-way traffic will be maintained with 2 lanes each direction during peak hours.

Q: Why does traffic need to shift east on Alaskan Way this December?

The traffic shift is needed to allow for construction of the new southbound lanes of Alaskan Way, on the west side of the street. Shifting traffic this December keeps construction moving towards completion of the 6 new lanes on Alaskan Way south of Columbia St in fall 2021.

Q: How will construction and the traffic shift impact the Pioneer Square community?

The traffic shift will improve the connection between Alaskan Way S and east-west cross streets and dramatically improve pedestrian access on the east side of Alaskan Way. As we move forward with construction our commitment to minimizing disruptions remains the same; we are working closely with SDOT to ensure access for businesses, residents and all modes of travel.

Q: How long will Waterfront Seattle construction be in Pioneer Square?

Waterfront Seattle construction of the new Alaskan Way in Pioneer Square began in November 2019 and is expected to wrap up in fall 2021. Construction of Pioneer Square East West Pedestrian improvements is anticipated to start in summer 2022 and be complete in 2023. Additionally, WSDOT will be working on south access improvements on Railroad Way S as early as spring 2021.

Q: How can the public stay informed about construction?

We will work with SDOT and the Alliance for Pioneer Square to notify community members, residents and businesses by phone and email, as well as distributing digital flyers in English, Spanish and Chinese to project neighbors. You can also stay informed by:

- [Visiting the construction section](#) of our website
- [Signing up to receive weekly construction emails](#) from Waterfront Seattle
- Texting "WFSCN" to 474747 to receive occasional text message updates about construction if there are changes that are not captured in our weekly email notifications
- Following @WaterfrontSeattle on Facebook or @WaterfrontSEA on Twitter and Instagram



PIONEER SQUARE EAST WEST PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Q: What other work will happen in Pioneer Square as part of Waterfront Seattle?

The City of Seattle's Office of the Waterfront & Civic Projects, working with community partner Alliance for Pioneer Square, has begun the [Pioneer Square East West Pedestrian Improvements Project](#) to improve the pedestrian environment on four east-west streets in the heart of Pioneer Square. This project will design and construct improvements on portions of S Main, S Washington, and S King streets and Yesler Way between 2nd Ave S and Alaskan Way S, with construction expected to begin in summer 2022.

Q: What are the goals of the project?

This project will connect historic Pioneer Square to the new 20-acre waterfront park, improve accessibility for people of all ages and abilities, and improve the pedestrian experience. The project will help strengthen the renewal of public spaces such as Occidental Park and support the economic vitality and culture of the district as a whole.

Q: What additional changes will be made to S Washington St as part of pedestrian improvements?

The project is currently in the 60% design phase. The design calls for S Main and S Washington streets to become single-lane one-way streets between Alaskan Way S and 2nd Ave S. S Main St would operate eastbound and S Washington St westbound. The sections between Alaskan Way S and Occidental Ave S would become curbless designs that will calm traffic and emphasize these streets as places for pedestrians. The designs will feature wider sidewalks, new level areas that will improve access for people with disabilities, more trees and other plants, improved crosswalks and curb ramps, more space for outdoor seating, and local vehicle access and loading zones.

Q: Does the public still have the opportunity to give input on the design of the project?

Yes, we are currently approaching 60% design for the project, and we're expected to finish design development in March 2021. We will continue to work with the community as we design and plan for additional changes in Pioneer Square. [Join our mailing list](#) to receive quarterly updates on the Waterfront Program.

HABITAT BEACH

Q: When will the new Habitat Beach between Colman Dock and Pier 48 open to the public?

While construction of the beach is complete, the space needs to remain closed for a few years for the plants to grow and habitat to adapt to the marine environment before it is opened to the public. In addition, we have a lot of remaining construction work adjacent to the Habitat Beach, including utility work, the future southbound lanes of Alaskan Way and a new promenade. This construction, along with the Washington State Ferries department's need for the counterflow lane currently used for ferry queuing and access to/from Colman Dock and Pier 48, will require that the beach remain closed until 2023.