



SEATTLE SQUEEZE ALERT

Street changes for SR 99 closure begin January 5, 2019

Overview

On January 11, 2019, the Alaskan Way Viaduct will close forever, marking the beginning of a five-year period of growth and an increase in challenges for getting around our city. This five-year phase is being called the Seattle Squeeze. As we face more congestion and additional street closures and delays, things will get tougher before they get better. People, businesses, schools, manufactures and many others rely on the timely delivery of products and goods; and we want to ensure they move as predictably and efficiently as possible. All this will be worth it, but everyone needs to start preparing now and have a plan for how they are getting around during the Seattle Squeeze.

Street changes

To manage the increased volume of traffic on our city's streets and changing traffic patterns in advance of **the SR closure beginning Friday, January 11, we're rechannelizing key streets downtown starting Saturday, January 5.** Streets include the Spokane Street Viaduct, the eastbound off-ramp to 4th Ave S and a short section of **4th Ave S approaching Spokane St.** The graphics included with this flier show what's changing.

The New Normal

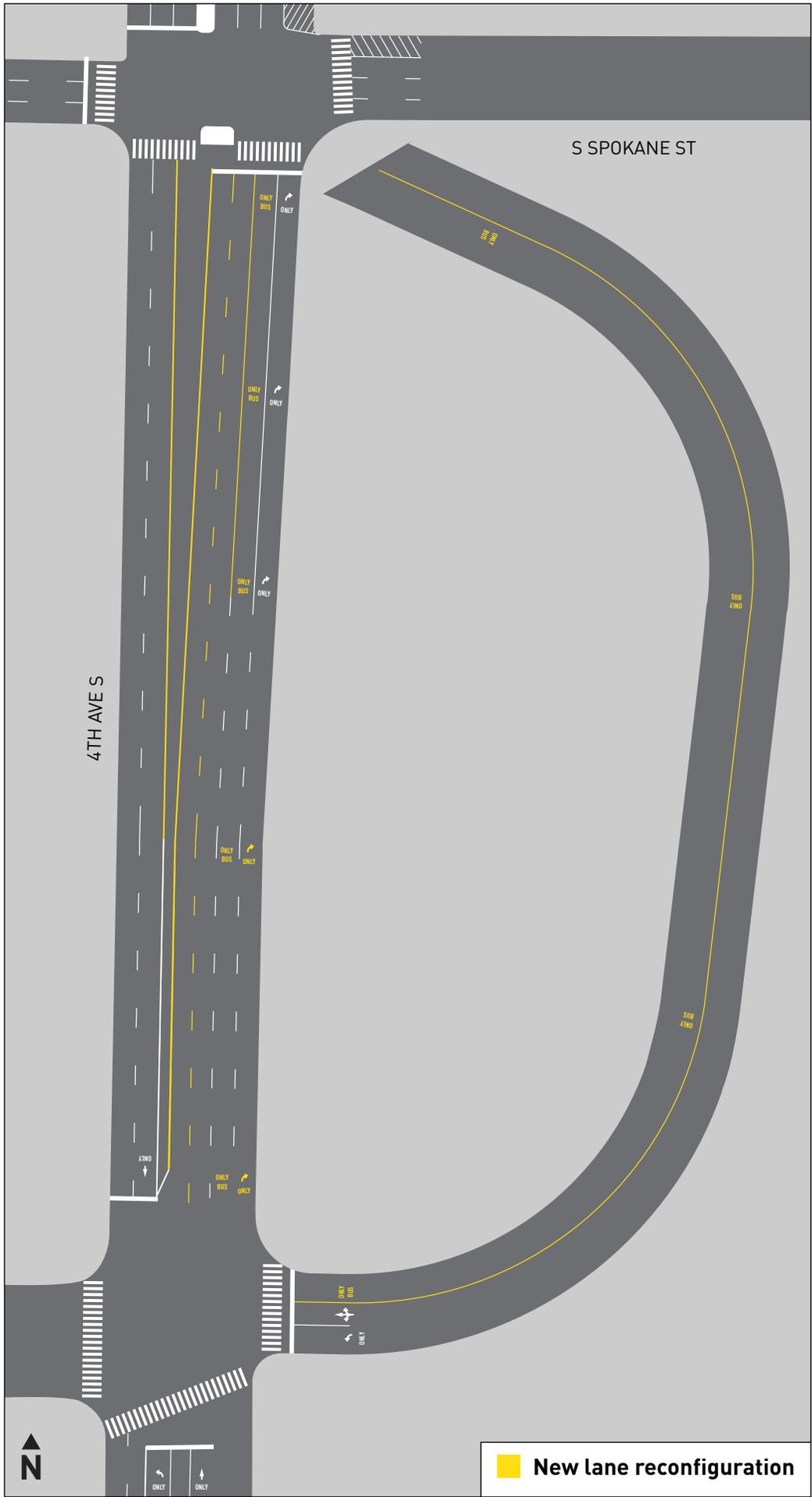
Now -2022	Construction impacts to streets from private construction like Key Arena
January-February 2019	Alaskan Way Viaduct closes 1/11
March 23, 2019	Downtown Seattle Tunnel becomes light rail only, bringing buses onto downtown streets
Summer 2019	Construction of the new Alaskan Way begins, lasting until 2021
Summer 2019	Tolling starts on the SR 99 Tunnel

What Can You Do?

Try transit, biking, walking, carpooling or vanpools. View our Tools page at www.seattle.gov/traffic for helpful resources. If you need to drive, plan ahead and be prepared for your new route and parking locations downtown. Keep our Vision Zero goal in mind, follow the rules, take a deep breath and travel safely. Safer streets can also mean less congested streets. Nationally, an estimated 25% of congestion can be attributed to traffic crashes.

Notice of future impacts related to the closure of SR 99 and other projects impacting traffic during the Seattle Squeeze are posted to our blog at seattle.gov/traffic. Head to this website for the latest updates and announcements.





On the Spokane Street Viaduct in the eastbound direction, the right lane will be converted to a bus only lane from 1st Ave S and will continue to the 4th Ave S exit to the signalized intersection at 4th Ave S. On 4th Ave S, we are adding a short bus-only lane heading northbound approaching Spokane St. These changes will be in place by 11 PM on Saturday, January 5. To accommodate this change, we have modified the island separating the north and southbound lanes on 4th Ave at Spokane St and a third northbound lane was added in December. This dedicated bus-only lanes will allow buses coming in from West Seattle to access the SODO busway and improve bus travel time throughout the SR 99 closure.

Please note that these are temporary bus lanes and will be restored to general travel lanes open to all vehicles in mid-February when the northbound off-ramp to Dearborn St is opened and King County Metro resumes northbound service on the SR 99 corridor.