

Dear Points residents,

As you may know, ECC and WSDOT recently made temporary changes to the westbound 84th Avenue Northeast entrance ramp and the SR 520 HOV/transit lane to build the new 84th Avenue Northeast lid. Our goal is to keep traffic flowing on 84th Avenue and SR 520 while the lid is under construction. In order to build a support wall for the new lid, crews recently created a median work zone near 84th Avenue, which leaves less space for mainline vehicles and those entering SR 520 from the 84th Avenue on-ramp. As a result, we have a number of competing interests in a narrow corridor.

We ask drivers entering westbound SR 520 from 84th Avenue Northeast to look to the left as you pull away from the ramp meter and make sure the lane is clear before you enter. It is your responsibility to yield to buses already in the lane, even after the ramp meter turns green. Once you reach highway speed you can merge out of the bus lane into the general purpose lanes, as you normally would.

You may be wondering why we made this temporary change. We didn't want to close the HOV/transit lane completely, so we re-designated it for buses only west of 92nd Avenue Northeast. Carpools, vanpools and motorcycles are required to merge into the general purpose lanes east of the new median work zone-about a half-mile sooner than they did before the change-to make room for drivers entering the highway at the 84th Avenue on-ramp. Buses are permitted to use the right lane, though with a reduced speed limit of 40 miles per hour.

By removing carpools, vanpools and motorcycles from the right lane, and requiring buses to slow down, we see large enough gaps to keep traffic flowing on the 84th Avenue on-ramp, and we can accomplish this without forcing buses into the general purpose lanes.

This configuration will be in place until spring 2012, when we complete the lid support wall. Although the HOV merge point is in a new location, electronic and static signs, and in-lane markings alert HOV-lane drivers of the upcoming merge. We anticipate that drivers will soon become accustomed to the temporary configuration.

In the meantime, we are working with the Washington State Patrol to increase carpool lane enforcement efforts in this area. We have also coordinated with King County Metro so their drivers are aware of the new speed limit.

Please contact me with any questions or comments and thank you for your cooperation and patience as we construct the 84th Avenue Northeast lid. And feel free to visit our website for the latest project information: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/MedinaTo202](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/MedinaTo202).

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