

SR 167 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Pilot Project

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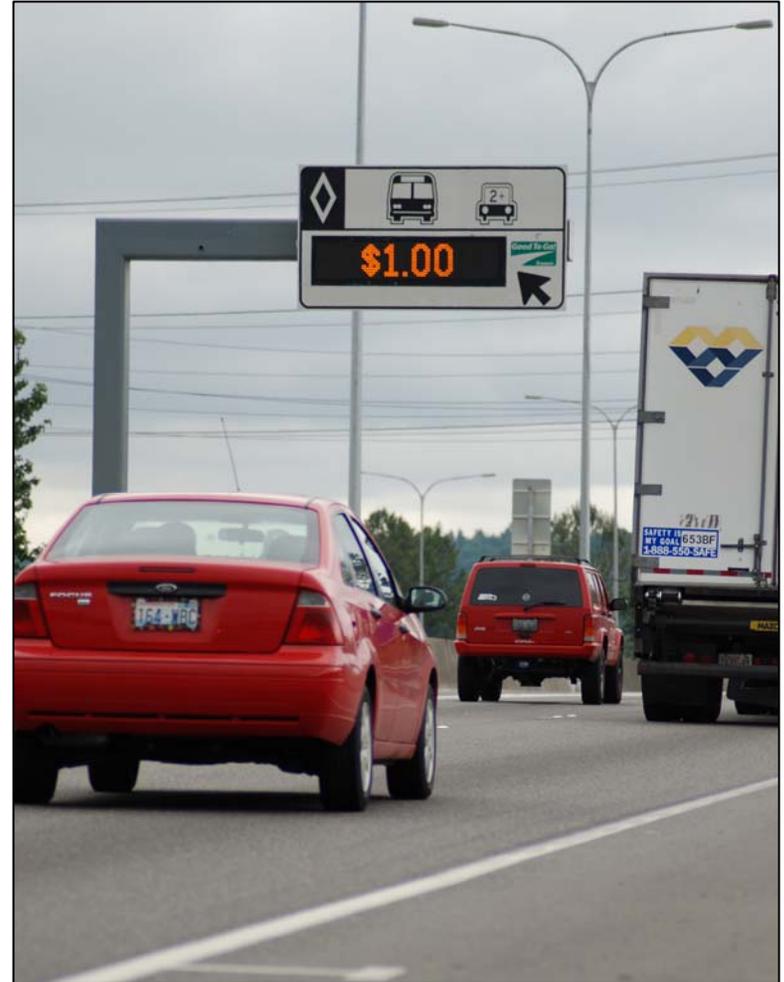
Joint Transportation Committee
July 8, 2008



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Today's outline

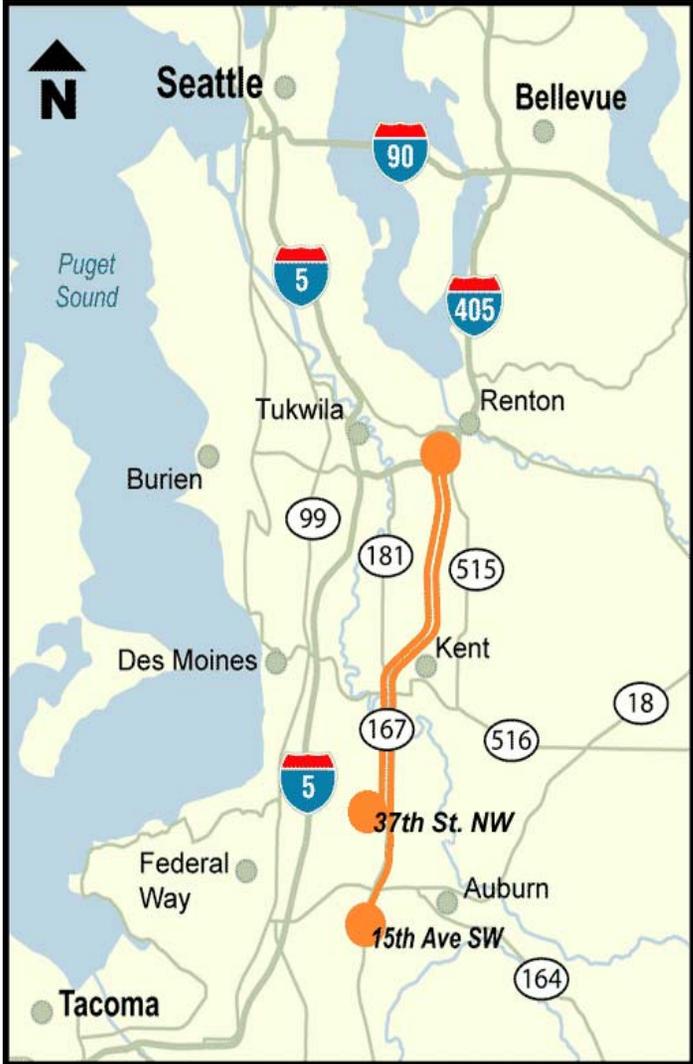
- HOT lanes overview
- HOT lanes now open
- How are we doing?
- What are we learning?
 - How are traffic operations going?
 - What is the public saying?
 - How are drivers benefiting?
 - How is the financing looking?
 - How is enforcement working?
- How will we assess the pilot project?
- Where can we go from here?



Where is State Route 167?



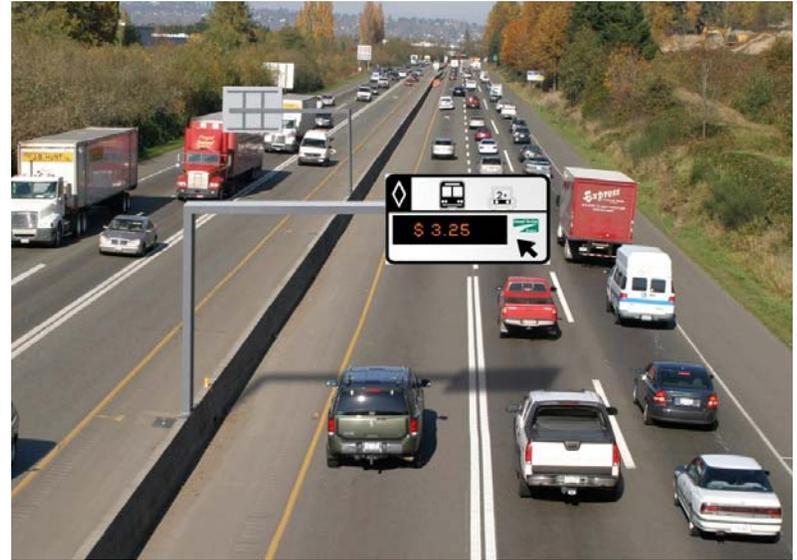
SR 167 had two general purpose lanes and one HOV Lane.



What Are HOT Lanes?

High occupancy toll (HOT) lanes

- maintain reliability and free access for transit and HOV vehicles.
- give single occupant vehicles a choice to pay a toll and use the lane for a congestion-free trip.



Simulation of HOT lanes in action.

HOT lanes now open

- Opened 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 3.
- Fairly smooth opening week and thorough media coverage.



How Are We Doing?

First month by the numbers - May 3- June 14

Daily Average:	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Toll transactions	850	960	1100	1080	1120	950
Toll paid	\$0.95	\$0.95	\$1.20	\$1.00	\$1.35	\$1.45
Highest Toll	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$5.75	\$3.25	\$8.25	\$3.25
NB peak hour timesavings	10	7	13	8	5	3
SB peak hour timesavings	4	6	7	4	3	2
Peak hour toll customers	120	160	150	170	210	150
Average NB peak hour	100	130	150	150	110	80
Average SB peak hour	80	100	100	110	80	60

Drivers paid an average of \$1.50 to save 10 minutes of travel-time during the peak commutes.



How Are Traffic Operations Going?

Incident response

- Response times decreased from an average of 13 minutes to just 5 minutes.
- Doubled the numbers of drivers we were able to assist on the roadway.



Striping and signing

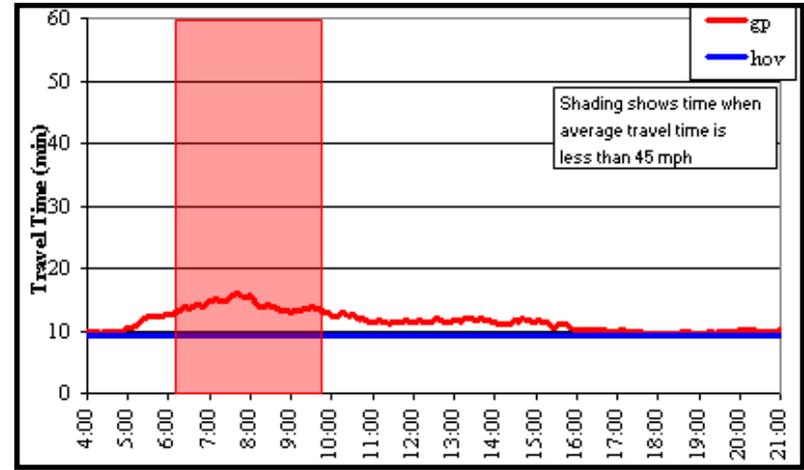
- Crews pulled back access striping at I-405 to give drivers more merging room the first weekend.
- Crews will install additional access point guide signs.
- Crews will adjust northbound SR 167 access point near SR 18.



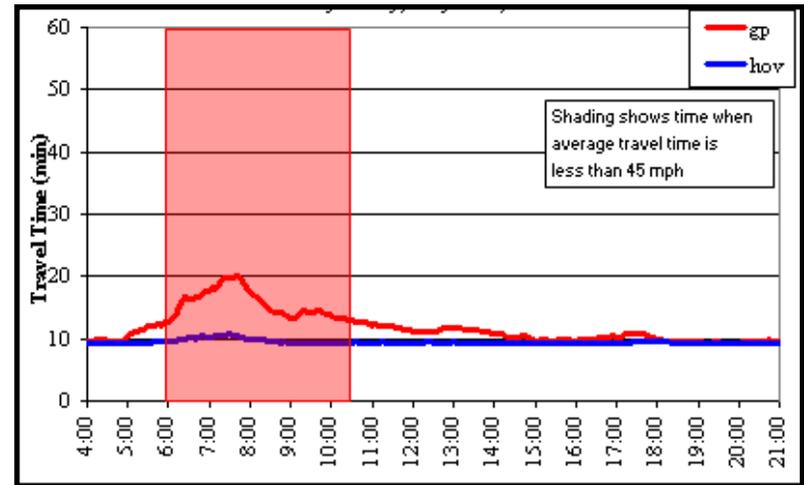
How Are Drivers Benefiting?

Average travel times from Auburn to Renton on northbound SR 167 have decreased.

May
2008



May
2007



What Is The Public Saying?

341 comments received first month

Top three concerns were:

- Transit and HOVs should not have to use the access points - they should be able to get in and out anywhere.
- Access points are too short, poorly located and inconvenient.
- HOT lanes are a bad idea, an extra tax or do not help congestion.



How are drivers benefiting?

HOT lanes save time

- average of nine minutes in a.m.
- Average of five minutes during p.m.
- Some as much as 34 minutes in the a.m. and 27 minutes in the p.m.
- HOT lanes have not increased collisions.
- HOT lanes have been free flowing.



How Is The Financing Looking?

Expected revenue

- We continue to see daily use and toll revenue increase but, as we expected, drivers are getting used to the system so they are not at full capacity.
- There is more room in the lanes for toll-paying customers - we expect the demand to grow.
- We expect to begin paying for the project and its daily operations after two years collecting tolls.

Good to Go!

- Customers are embracing electronic toll technology.
- Increased number of Good to Go! accounts in SR 167 area.



How Is Enforcement Going?

As part of the HOT Lanes Pilot Project, the Washington State Patrol is providing additional SR 167 enforcement.

Partnering with WSP was key to HOT lanes success

- Supported heavy media blitz - messaging, media ride-alongs, interview availability – before and after opening.
- WSP was out educating and ticketing for illegally using the HOV-lane as a solo driver and crossing the double white stripes - WSP gave 114 citations for illegal HOT/HOV lane use.
- Provided emergency and project operations support.



How Will We Assess The Project?

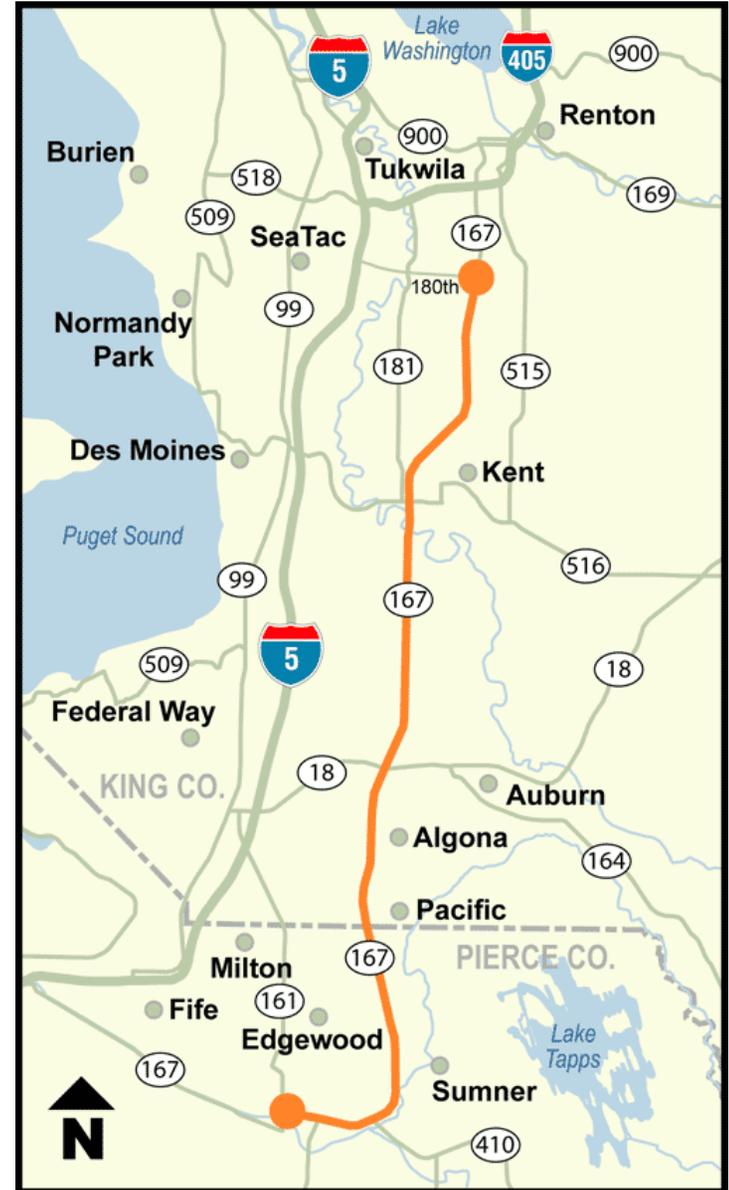
WSDOT will report to the Legislature and the Transportation Commission each year, on such items as:

- Freeway efficiency and safety.
- Effectiveness for transit.
- Person and vehicle movements by mode.
- Ability to finance improvements and transportation services through tolls.
- The affects on all highway users by analyzing use data and through surveys to assess geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic facility use information.



Where Can We Go From Here?

- Complete SR 167 widening from Auburn to Puyallup
- Connect SR 167 HOT lanes to I-405 and possible express lanes.



For more information on HOT lanes, please contact

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Good to go!
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo/>

Pilot project Web page:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR167/HOTLanes