



Juicing the “Seattle Squeeze”

Lessons Learned from Seattle’s SR-99 Closure

APTA Sustainability & Multimodal Operations Planning Workshop
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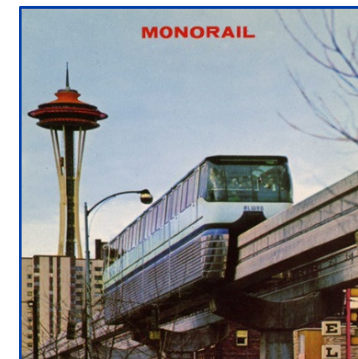
City of Seattle

Presentation overview

- Seattle transit overview
- The “Seattle Squeeze”
- SR-99 Closure
- Preparation for closure
- Coordination during closure
- Lessons learned

Seattle transit overview

- King County Metro
 - Local and commuter bus
 - RapidRide BRT and electric trolleybus
 - Water taxi
- Sound Transit
 - Link light rail
 - ST Express regional bus
 - Sounder commuter rail
- City of Seattle
 - Seattle Center Monorail
 - Seattle Streetcar



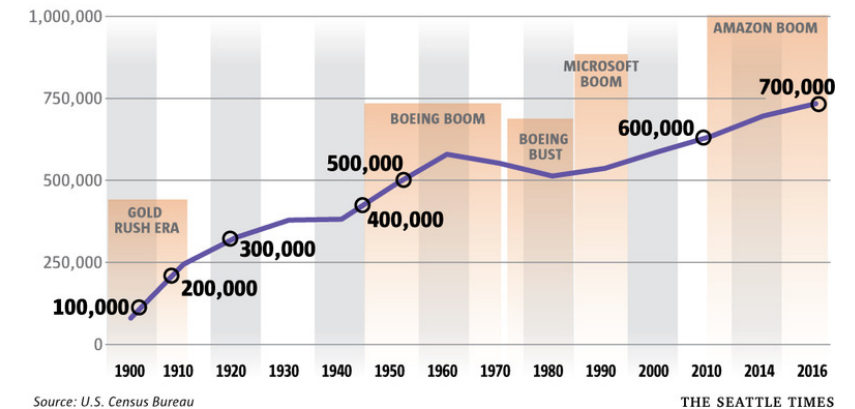
The "Seattle Squeeze"

- One of fastest growing cities in U.S.
- ~250K employment in greater downtown (HQ1)
- Transit ridership investment and growth
- Infrastructure and development projects

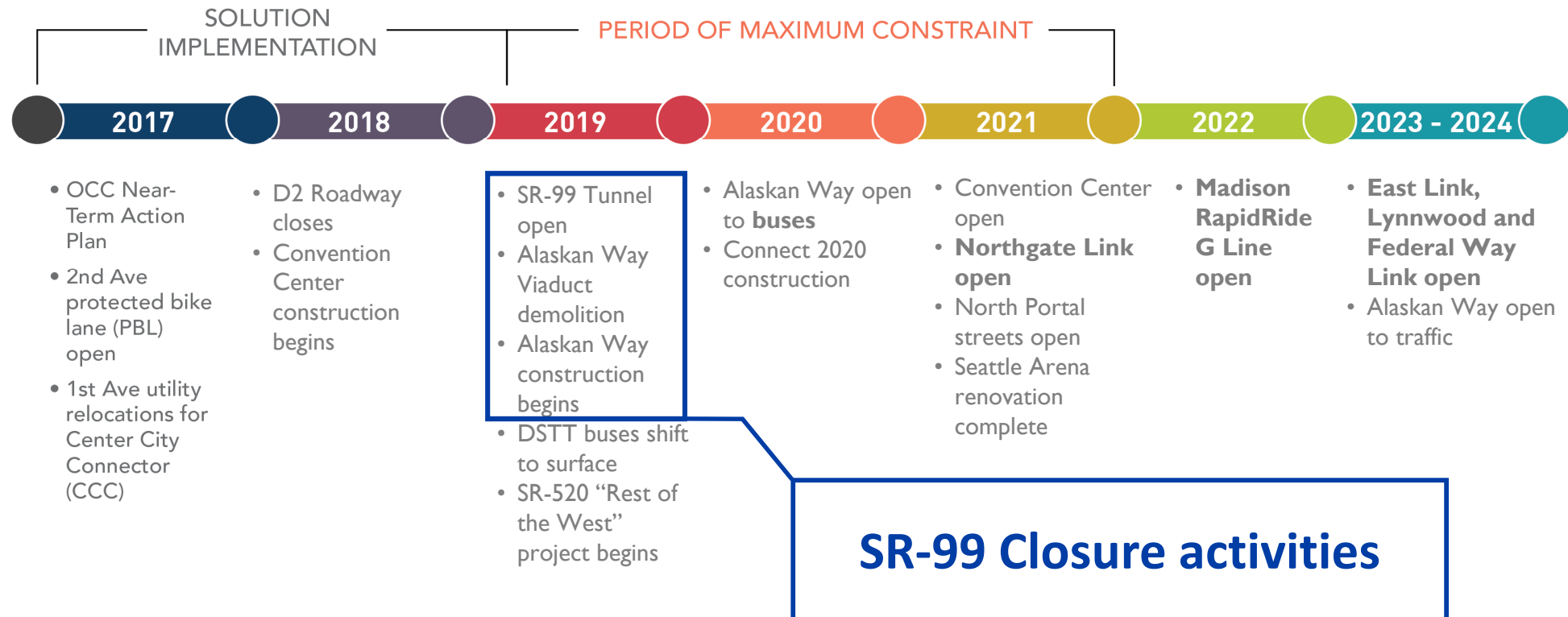


Seattle population milestones

Last year, Seattle passed the 700,000 mark for the first time. New census data estimate the city's 2016 population at 704,352.



The "Seattle Squeeze" - Timeline




SR-99 Closure - History

- Alaskan Way Viaduct (State Route 99)
 - Opened in sections starting in 1953
- Between Waterfront and Downtown
- First limited-access highway, before I-5
- Damaged in 2001 Nisqually earthquake
- Vital connection for freight, auto
- Major transit pathway from West Seattle and Southwest King County
 - RapidRide C line + 11 all-day/peak routes
 - ~28,000 average weekday boardings



SR-99 Closure - #Realign99

- 3-week transition from viaduct to tunnel
 - Longest highway closure in region's history
 - Alaskan Way Viaduct/Battery Street Tunnel
 - Closed Friday, January 11th
 - SR-99 "Deep Bored" Tunnel
 - Opened Monday, February 4th
- 
- A partial illustration of a tunnel interior. It shows a curved ceiling with some structural elements and a green exit sign with a white figure of a person walking. The sign has the word "EXIT" below it. The illustration is in a light, sketchy style.



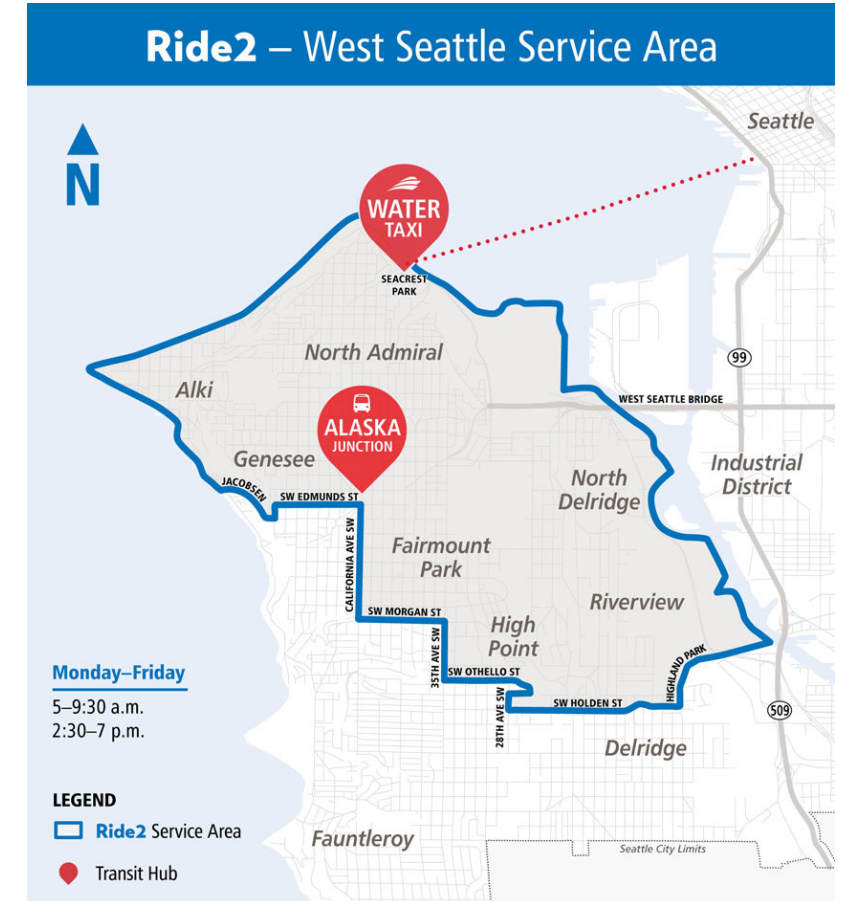
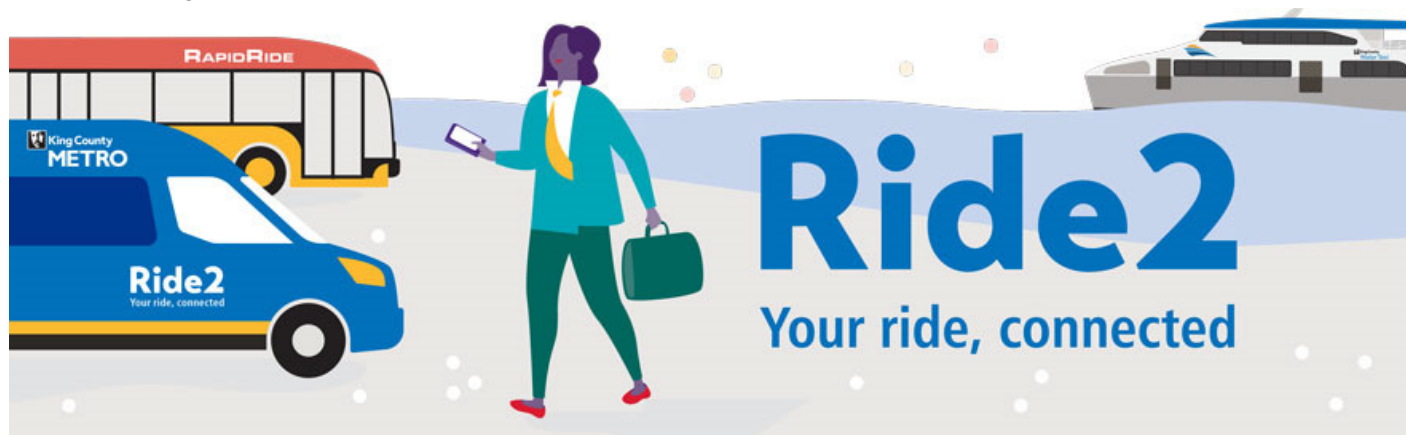
Preparation for closure – “Five Pillars”

- “Five Pillars” of mobility goals:
 - Monitor and manage our transportation system
 - Reduce the number of drive-alone trips downtown
 - Invest in transit and expand access
 - Manage the public right-of-way
 - Communicate with the public
- Interagency collaboration on action and messaging
 - Movement of people and goods



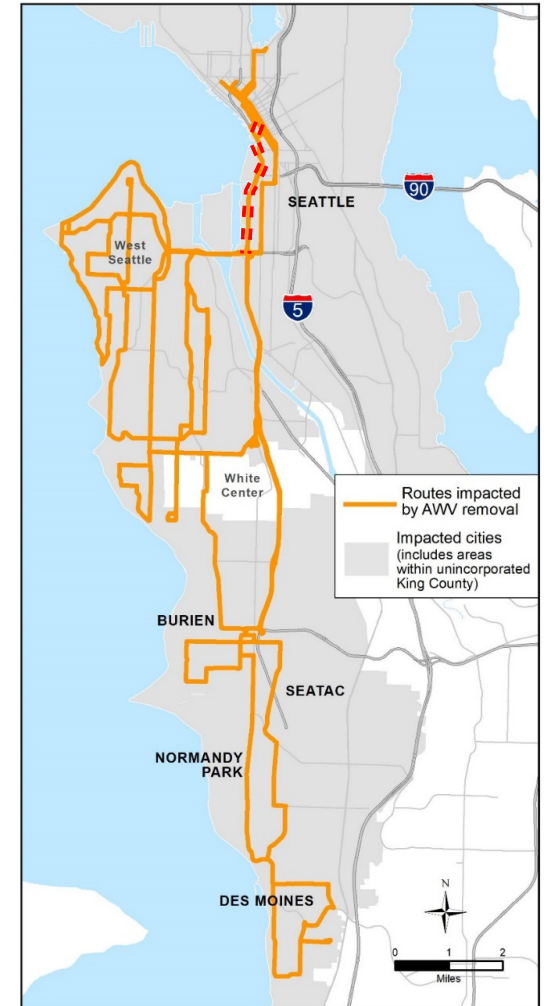
Preparation for closure - Services

- Limited trip increases
- Ride2 First Mile/Last Mile service in West Seattle
- West Seattle Water Taxi
- Standby coaches



Preparation for closure - Capital

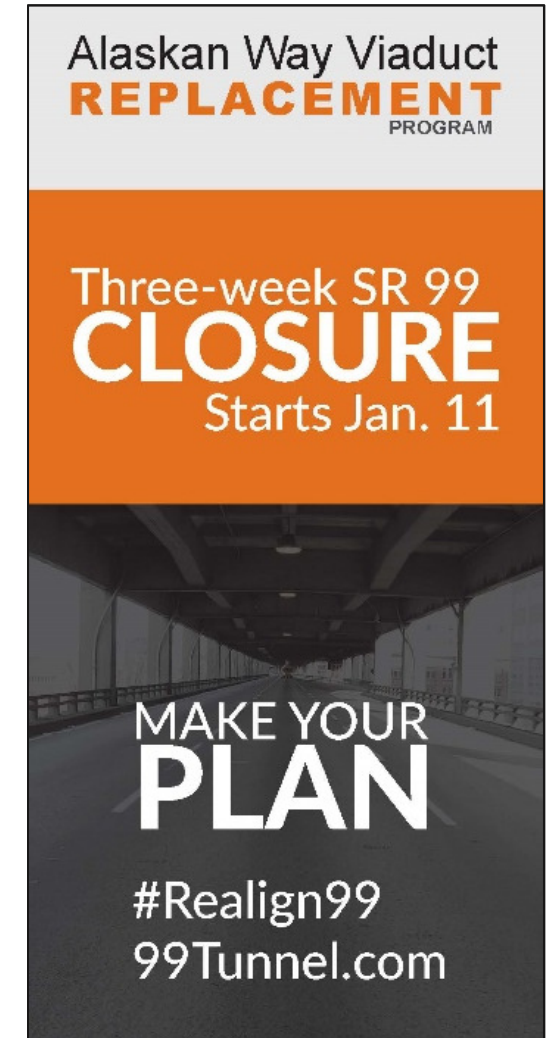
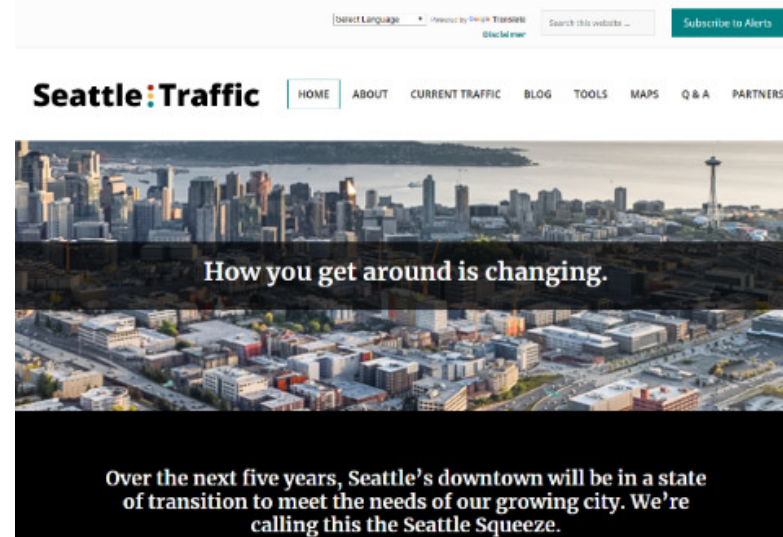
- Temporary no-stop pathway in lieu of Viaduct
 - Bus-only restrictions at chokepoints
- Restricted turns and enforced transit-only lanes
- Expanded transit-only restrictions on key transit streets (3rd Ave)
- Revised signal timing plans for transit and auto pathways



Preparation for closure - Messaging

- Public information on timeline and temporary and permanent changes
- Collaboration with major downtown employers
- Emphasize trip-making outside of peak periods

FLEXWORK



Coordination during closure

- SDOT/City of Seattle mobilizes Incident Management Team
- 24/7 staffing of Traffic Operations Center
- Regular internal and external coordination calls
- Direct coordination with SDOT, King County Metro and Seattle Police Dept.
- Keep right-of-way open for travel
 - Permits
 - Parking restrictions
 - Incident response vehicles

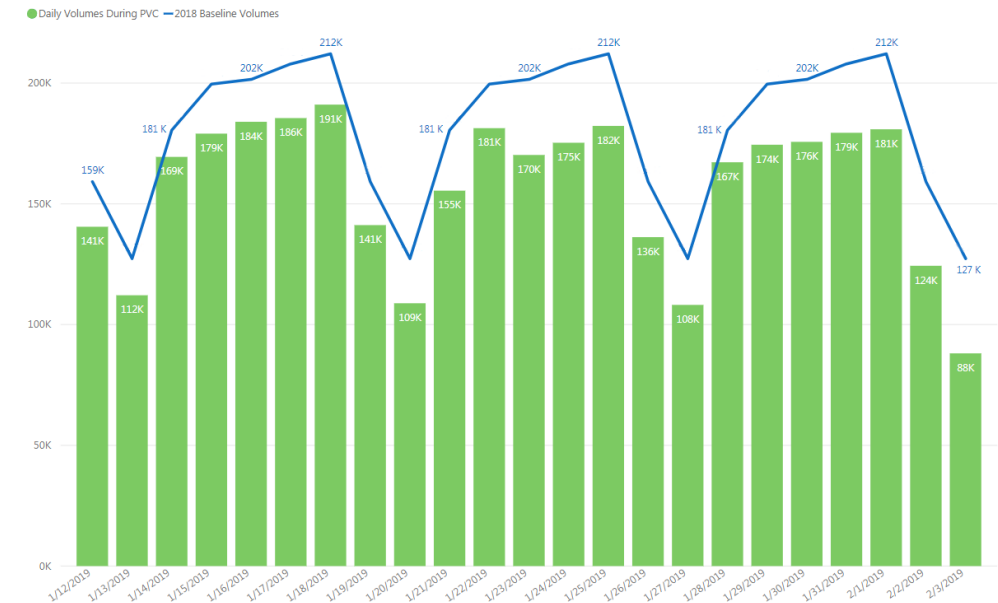


Lessons learned - Trends

- People heard the “call to action” and changed their travel behaviors
- Auto trips shifted
 - Earlier during peak periods
 - Away from downtown
- Transit trips shifted away from peaks
- Higher bicycle travel/bikeshare usage
 - Dry and mild weather for winter
- 10% increase in teleworking



Daily Center City Traffic During PVC vs. 2018 Baseline



Lessons learned

- Be persistent on messaging, each week
- Be ready for surprises
 - Train blockages, freeway incidents, inclement weather...
- “Demobilization” as important as preparation
- Use successes as starting point for next chapter of the Seattle Squeeze...



Questions?



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