

**Where the buses will go**

Route no.	Tunnel (or street shown in next columns when tunnel is closed)	Second Avenue (southbound) when tunnel is closed	Third Avenue	Fourth Avenue (northbound) when tunnel is closed
2 Express, 5, 11, 16, 17, 21 Express, 23, 35			●	
41	●		●	
54, 55, 56 Express, 66			●	
71, 72, 73, 74 Express, 101, 106	●		●	
113, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125			●	
150	●		●	
174, 194, 212	●	●		●
217*	● (am)	●		● (pm)
225, 229	●	●		●
255, 256	●			●
301	●		●	
358			●	
ST Express 550	●	●		●

\*Always on Fourth Avenue in the afternoon and evening.



Department of Transportation  
**Community Relations and Communications**  
 KSC-TR-0824  
 201 S. Jackson Street  
 Seattle, WA 98104

**Metro Rider Information:**

**206-553-3000**

**Metro Online:**

[www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro)

**Alternate Formats Available**

**206-263-3703 TTY Relay: 711**

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 SEATTLE, WA  
 PERMIT NO. 6966

# Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to reopen Sept. 24

Many bus routes through downtown will change



The Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel, closed for two years while Sound Transit retrofitted it for joint use by buses and light rail, will reopen for weekday bus service on Monday, Sept. 24.



We'll Get You There

**W**hen the tunnel reopens, King County Metro Transit will make a number of route changes that will improve transit service through downtown:

**Eighteen bus routes will move into the tunnel.** Many of the routes that used the tunnel before will return to it. Three routes will go into the tunnel for the first time. The routes that will use the tunnel are Metro routes 41, 71, 72, 73, 74 Express, 101, 106, 150, 174, 194, 212, 217 (mornings only), 225, 229, 255, 256 and 301, and Sound Transit Express 550.

**Six peak-hour routes that used the tunnel before will not return to it.** With light rail coming to downtown Seattle in 2009, not all of the routes that used the tunnel before can return. When determining what routes will use the tunnel, Metro considered the best use of the tunnel and of the high-capacity hybrid tunnel buses that will operate in it. Metro also grouped routes that serve common destinations whenever possible, both in the tunnel and on the streets. The former tunnel routes that will stay above ground are 177, 190, 196, 266, 306 and 312.

**Twenty-two surface-street routes will move from First, Second, Fourth and Fifth avenues to Third Avenue, where transit will continue to have priority during peak travel hours.** The Metro routes that will move to Third Avenue are 2 Express, 5, 11, 16, 17, 21 Express, 23, 35, 54, 55, 56 Express, 66, 113, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125 and 358.

Some downtown routes that were changed when the tunnel was closed in 2005 or in early 2006 will remain as they are now. These are Metro routes 26, 28, 34, 39, 42, 111, 114, 143 and 161. Additional changes to downtown paths and stops are likely to be made over the next few years, with light rail service and Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement on the horizon.

The chart on panel 4 shows all the routes that will change.

**Buses will run in the tunnel from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. The tunnel will be closed on weekends for light rail training and testing.**

**Monday, Sept. 24  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Westlake Park  
Fourth Avenue & Pine Street  
Downtown Seattle**

*Street Treat*

Join us for refreshments, live music and a celebration of the tunnel reopening.

## Look for new route information in September

**Metro's online Trip Planner, [www.kingcounty.gov/tripplanner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/tripplanner)**  
New route and schedule information will be available Sept. 10. For information about service on or after Sept. 22, be sure to enter the appropriate day and date.

**Metro's Rider Information phone line  
206-553-3000 Toll-free 800-542-7876 TTY 206-684-1739**  
Beginning Sept. 10, Rider Information staff will begin providing help in planning trips that will occur after the Sept. 22 service change.

**Rider Alert brochures and new red timetables**  
These will be available Sept. 13 on buses and at Metro information racks, work sites and libraries. The special Rider Alert brochure will also be available on Metro Online.

**Online timetables, [www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro)**  
New timetables will be available on Metro Online the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 21.

Metro also will update downtown bus stop signs and kiosks before the tunnel reopens. During the days just before and after the tunnel reopens, "street teams" of transit agency staff will be at key locations downtown to answer customer questions and help people get to their correct bus stops.

When the tunnel reopens, the pass sales office will not move back to the Westlake Customer Stop on the mezzanine level of the Westlake Tunnel Station. Bus passes and tickets will continue to be available at the Transportation Connection in the Rainier Square Retail Concourse, 1301 5th Avenue, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and at Metro's offices at King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson St., Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Westlake Customer Stop will offer timetables and personalized trip planning assistance.



## Transit will be better than ever

Before the tunnel closed in September 2005, Sound Transit, Metro Transit, Community Transit, and the City of Seattle invested \$16 million in street and transit improvements to keep traffic moving when tunnel buses moved to surface streets. Thanks to those changes, average bus travel times are now more than 20 percent better through downtown than before the tunnel closure.

Many of the changes will remain in place when the tunnel reopens. These include the use of alternating or "skip" stops on Third Avenue (with buses stopping every two-to-four blocks instead of at every bus stop along the street); traffic restrictions on Third Avenue during peak commute hours; a transit-only lane on Olive Way; traffic signal improvements in the north and south Central Business District; the Fifth Avenue contra-flow transit lane; and the transit island at Fourth Avenue S and S Jackson Street.

The route changes that Metro will make when the tunnel reopens are intended to further relieve congestion in the downtown core, especially during peak commute times. New stops are being added on Columbia and Seneca Streets to help buses move more efficiently between Third Avenue and the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

People who use the tunnel to travel through downtown during the day will find more frequent bus service than before the closure.

## Community Transit and Sound Transit service

There will be no changes to Community Transit service in downtown Seattle when the tunnel reopens. Sound Transit Route 550 will return to the tunnel, but no other changes will be made to Sound Transit's downtown Seattle service.

