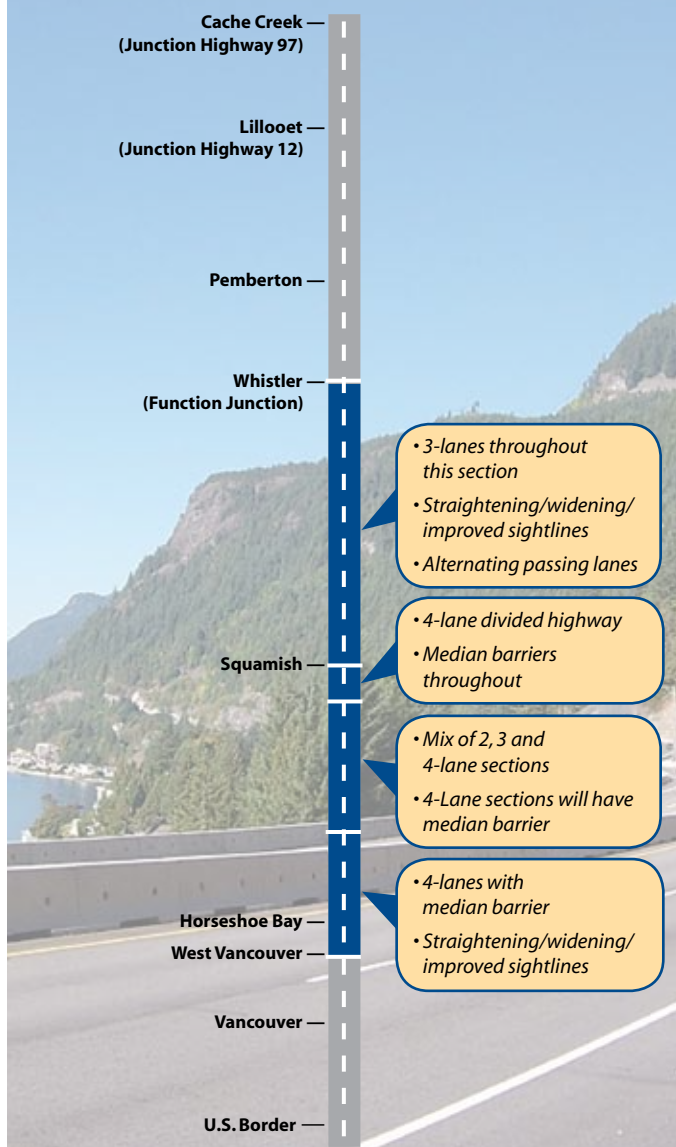


Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

Highway Delay and Closure Information West Vancouver to Whistler



Construction Speed Zones

**Posted speed in construction zones:
50 kilometres per hour.**

- » Construction speed zones are in place to protect the public and workers whenever conditions affecting the highway have been changed, and regular highway speeds are not safe.
- » This can include preliminary work such as tree removal, drilling holes for utility pole relocation, excavation for geo-technical work as well as major roadway construction.
- » Even when workers aren't present, there are hazards in construction zones that require reduced speeds.
- » Traffic fines **double** in construction zones.

**Construction speed zones from
West Vancouver to Whistler
slow you down by only 15 minutes.**





Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project



British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation is improving the safety, reliability, and capacity of the spectacular Sea-to-Sky Highway which links communities from West Vancouver to Whistler. The project includes highway widening and straightening for improved sightlines. With added passing lanes and other design innovations, hazards will be reduced, travel times shortened and capacity increased.

When improvements are completed by the end of 2009, travel will be safer and more reliable for residents, commuters and visitors. The improved highway will serve the corridor's growth and travel demands until 2025.

www.seatoskyimprovements.ca



Safety and Innovation

Safety improvements undertaken by the Project include:

- » Highway straightening and improved sightlines to improve safety and create more consistent driving speeds
- » 80 kilometres of new passing lanes between Horseshoe Bay and Whistler
- » Highly reflective pavement markings installed along the length of the highway
- » Installation of shoulder and centerline rumble strips
- » Safer and more effective intersections
- » Wider shoulders for improved safety and accommodation of cyclists and disabled vehicles
- » Improved pullouts and enforcement opportunities
- » Bridges are being constructed at a higher height and a longer span to allow debris flows to safely pass under the structure.

For Further Information

Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project Community Relations

Vancouver:

Suite 1420 – 1111 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3
Phone: 604-775-1104 Email: info@seatoskyimprovements.ca

Squamish:

#103 – 42000 Loggers Lane, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0
Phone: 604-898-2117 Email: pam.tattersfield@gov.bc.ca

Whistler:

Unit 3B – 4122 Village Green, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4
Phone: 604-932-0712 Email: scott.roberts@gov.bc.ca

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Innovative construction techniques are being used to keep traffic moving and construction on schedule. These include:

Fewer closures due to construction

Engineers and designers developed methods to build out over the steep slopes on the ocean side, rather than closing the road to widen into the mountainside using mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls and half bridges to add new lanes.



Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls

Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls are built by reinforcing a mass of soil with metal grids. Ten kilometres of highway are supported by MSE walls.

Approximately 60,000 square metres of wire and pre-cast concrete-faced retaining walls are being built.

Half bridges

Half bridges, so-called since they support only two lanes of the four-lane improved highway, are constructed on some narrow cliff sections where the height is too great to build MSE walls, or the horizontal clearance is limited by the railway below. In some cases, the support columns are cantilevered out from the cliffs.



Lane shifting instead of lane closures

Used to avoid ever-changing traffic patterns in construction zones, several longer traffic pattern changes called lane shifts keep traffic flowing and crews

working by moving the active highway away from the work area.



Recycling rock

Balancing rock removal and rock fill in a sustainable manner using mobile rock crushers in the work zones. Instead of hauling rock away and hauling gravel back, the rock is processed on site.

This results in fewer truck trips, less dust, fewer emissions and smoother traffic flow.



Portable concrete plants

Using small scale, portable plants near both gravel supplies and the work sites, reduces the time, fuel and the number of trucks on the highway.

Environmental care

A notable example is the new box culvert at Thistle Creek in Britannia Beach. Installed deeper in the ground than a conventional round steel culvert, the new box culvert enhances spawning opportunities by allowing fish to enter the creek through a wider range of tidal elevations than before.



Traffic information

Project Information Line where travellers can get up-to-date travel information, by calling toll-free in Canada. Operators are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Travellers can also subscribe to a first-in-Canada

text message that will immediately alert them to unscheduled delays on the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

Approximate driving time without highway delays (hours: minutes)

	Horseshoe Bay	Squamish	Whistler	Pemberton	Lillooet	Jct. 97
Horseshoe Bay	0:00	0:45	1:45	2:15	4:30	5:45
Downtown Vancouver	0:30	1:15	2:15	2:45	5:00	6:15
Vancouver Airport (YVR)	1:00	1:45	2:45	3:15	5:30	6:45
Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal	1:15	2:00	3:00	3:30	5:45	7:00
Canada/US Border at Blaine, WA	1:30	2:15	3:15	3:45	6:00	7:15

** Sumas-Huntington crossing - add 15 min; Lyndon-Aldergrove crossing - add 30 min.*

Always allow extra travel time for construction speed zones and delays

Best Times to Drive

We plan construction to avoid the busiest travel times. This includes no highway closures or major delays:

- » Friday noon through Sunday 10 pm
- » 6 am – 9 am, Monday to Friday
- » 5 pm – 8 pm, Monday to Thursday
- » Canadian or U.S. statutory holidays
- » No daytime closures mid-June to mid-September
- » Minor daytime delays December - February

Highway closures will be implemented at set times and publicized well in advance. During non-closure, “off-peak” periods, remember **30-30-45**. Construction related traffic delays are coordinated so that total construction delays should not exceed:

- » 30 minutes for trips between West Vancouver and Squamish
- » 30 minutes for trips between Squamish and Whistler
- » 45 minutes for trips between West Vancouver and Whistler

Highway Delay and Closure Information

» Toll free 1-877-4SAFE99 (1-877-472-3399).

Operators are available to answer your questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Before you go, get up-to-date travel information, including times and locations of current highway construction delays or closures, from the toll-free project information line.

» **Online: www.seatoskyimprovements.ca** (under “Closures and Delays Schedule”). Up-to-date information is available on the website with our travel planning tools which include the best times to drive, a weekly schedule, seasonal travel planner and closure and delay projections to 2009.

» **Weekly Stakeholder Email.** To receive weekly emails outlining the upcoming week’s delay and closure schedule, you can subscribe to our free weekly schedule distribution list. To subscribe to this service, please forward your name and email address to: roadclosuresanddelays@seatoskyimprovements.ca.

» **Road Alerts Service.** Frequent Sea-to-Sky travellers can receive text message alerts about major or unscheduled events that affect highway travel. To subscribe to road alerts text: ‘Sea to Sky’ to ROADS (76237) or visit www.theweathernet.com/roadalerts. *Cost per alert: 25 cents*

