



Background

Region 1

Interstate 5 Holladay to Marquam Closure FAQs



What happened last weekend?

Too many people took the Rose Quarter exit thinking they could stay on I-5. The exit was open only to local traffic.

What changes will ODOT make for the weekend closure starting the night of July 20?

ODOT will add barrels and more electronic message signs help drivers on I-5 southbound understand that Exit 302A is for local traffic only.

ODOT is also strongly advising drivers to avoid I-5 southbound and surrounding freeways altogether during the weekend closures. We are also broadcasting more public service announcements to make people aware that the best plan is to avoid the area.

Why not just close the Broadway/City Center off-ramp (Exit 302A)?

That could create even more problems. An average of 14,000 vehicles per day use the Broadway/City Center off-ramp, which leads to a busy commercial, retail and entertainment district. If ODOT closed the exit, those 14,000 vehicles would be added to the detour that is already carrying 60,000 vehicles a

day from I-5 southbound.

Closing the off-ramp would mean traffic from Exit 302A would use I-405 south to I-5 north to the Broadway/City Center off-ramp (exit 302A). That stretch of I-5 north is already crowded with traffic from I-84 merging onto I-5 north. This could cause lengthy backups on I-84.

Keeping the Broadway/City Center off-ramp open is the lesser of two evils.

Why do this on the weekend? Why not do the work at night?

If ODOT did the work only at night, the project would take nearly three years to complete. Closing the freeway for five weekends ensures we get the work done in one summer season. While these weekend closures require motorists to change their normal weekend travel plans, getting this work done quickly is cost effective and, in the long run, more convenient. This stretch of freeway hasn't had a new overlay since it opened a half century ago. It's critical we get it done now as it will cost more to do in the future.

How can I best plan to avoid gridlock?

Drivers can plan for delays or avoid the freeways in and around downtown Portland on during these weekend closures.

Where can I get information about traffic delays?

Motorists should go to TripCheck.com for the latest information and to check the ODOT traffic cameras.

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