King County METRO

November 9, 2026

University Bridge Trolley Pole Replacement Project



Notice of upcoming construction

What is happening and why?

King County Metro is replacing all 30 of its light and trolley poles on the University Bridge after an evaluation found that the remaining poles needed replacement. This work will improve bridge lighting, strengthen the foundations supporting the poles, and ensure reliable trolley bus service. Once complete, the new trolley infrastructure will support continued emission-free transit between Capitol Hill, Eastlake, and the University District, while also preparing for the future RapidRide J Line, which will operate using Metro's electric trolley fleet.

What to expect during construction

Timelines may shift due to weather or unexpected delays. You can expect:

- Regular lane closures
- Large machinery and truck activity
- Construction staging near bridge
- Some sidewalk and intersection closures
- Detours for people walking, biking and rolling
- Uniformed police officers and flaggers directing traffic around work areas

Standard working window

6:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday - Friday

This time is inclusive of quiet prep time, mobilization, set up, cleanup and storage. Weekend and night work may occur.

Find your King County Commute

Construction doesn't have to slow you down. King County Metro offers flexible, affordable ways to get where you're going. With an ORCA Card, you can travel on many options, including bus, light rail, water taxi, Sounder train and more! Find the right ORCA card and commute for you. Visit kingcounty.gov/metro/FareEducation for more information.

*Anticipated impacts: (see back for map)

- 40th Ave NE Closed Ramp Closed
- Current pedestrian and bike access will be modifieid to give access

We are here!

1 Removal of Trolley Overhead Catenary System (OCS)

In the first phase, the Trolley Overhead Catenary System (OCS) will be removed on both sides of the bridge. This system provides power to the trolley buses through the wires that run above the road.

2 Pole replacement on west side of the bridge

Old trolley poles will be removed on the southbound lane. Outdated pole and curb foundations will be demolished and rebuilt.

3 Shift pole replacement work to the east side of bridge

Old trolley poles will be removed on the northbound lane. Outdated pole and curb foundations will be demolished and rebuilt.

4 New OCS wire installation

Metro installs new OCS wires and poles on both sides of the bridge.

5 Removal of temporary electrical power lines

Metro removes temporary electrical power lines on the north and sound ends of the bridge that helped provide electricity during the project.

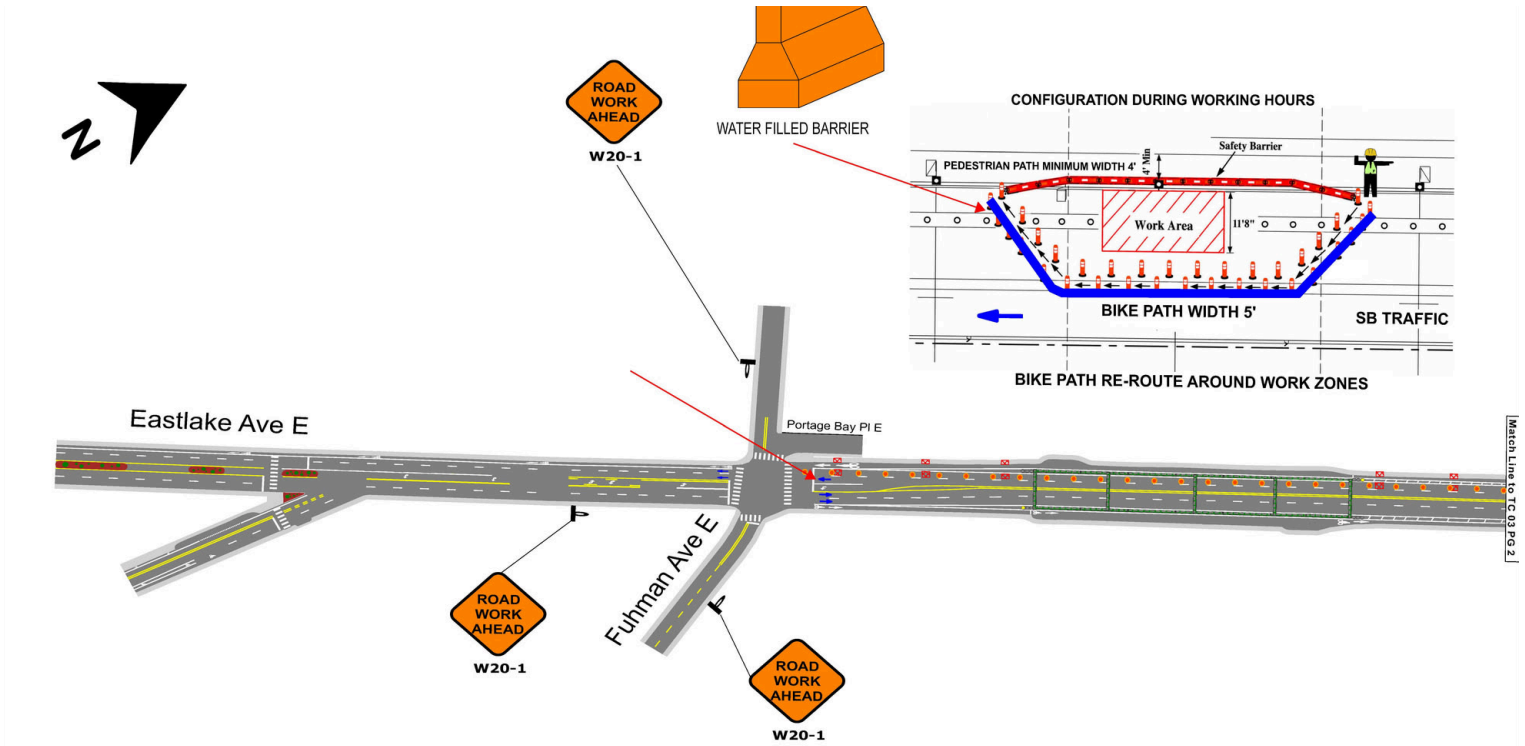
Project information and contact

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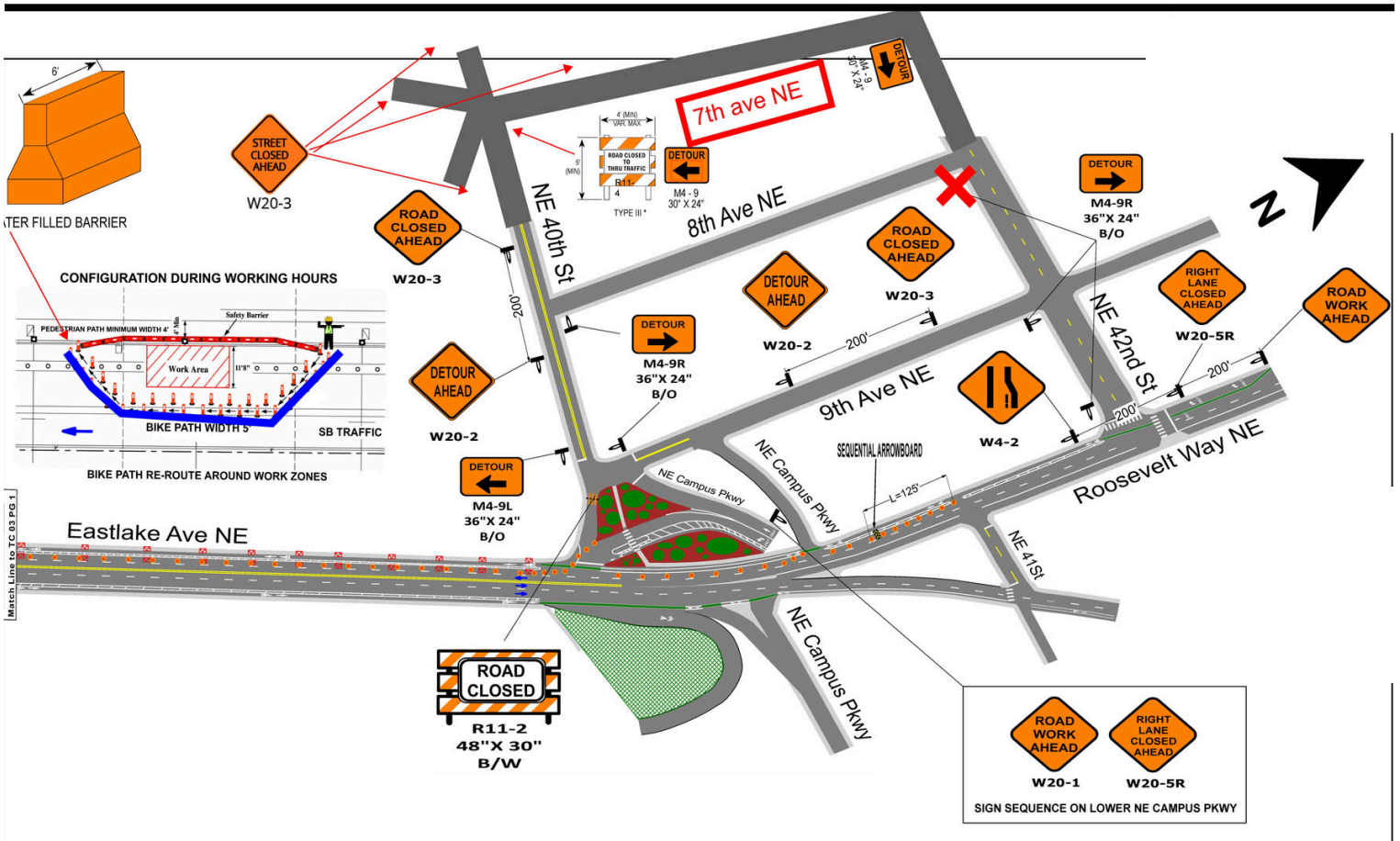
community.relations@kingcounty.gov

kingcounty.gov/metro/university-bridge

Translations and interpretations available.



SB RIGHT LANE CLOSURE W.SIDE OF BRIDGE



SB RIGHT LANE CLOSURE W.SIDE OF BRIDGE

Legend

- SEQUENTIAL ARROWBOARD
- SPOTTER
- STAGING LAYDOWN AREA
- TALL CHANNELIZATION DEVICE 42"
- TEMPORARY SIGN LOCATION
- Type 3 Barricade Location
- WORK ZONE