

Grand Avenue Park Bridge

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



■ **Why is the City putting up a bridge at this location?**

It is necessary to replace deteriorated underground pipelines on landslide-prone slopes that are in proximity to the bridge location. Placing the new pipelines on a utility bridge will make them more accessible for inspection and maintenance. There will be space on the bridge for a future water main crossing.

The bridge will carry storm drainage and sewer pipelines across a steep slope, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway tracks and West Marine View Drive. The bridge will also provide pedestrian access from Grand Avenue Park to the waterfront.

■ **Why can't the work be done at night so that traffic can go through during the day?**

The four massive lifting towers need to be constructed around the steel bridge truss on West Marine View Drive to provide the needed support for distributing one million pounds of weight during the lifting sequence. These will take about a week to assemble. It is not possible to remove all of the lifting towers until the bridge has been raised and is in place.

■ **Why can't a lane or two be kept open during the bridge erection sequence?**

Within viable means and methods, it is not possible to place the bridge span without taking up all of West Marine View Drive. WMVD is 60 feet wide; the work zone, including four massive lifting towers, is 70 feet wide.

During the elevation of a million pounds of steel, travel in and around the bridge work zone requires restrictions to protect the public.

■ **Why wasn't the bridge built in place so the road wouldn't have to be closed?**

Any construction over BNSF railroad track requires train-free windows during over-track work. Constructing the bridge in place was not a viable construction scheme due to the number and duration of train-free windows that would have been necessary. Even with in-place construction, there still would have been a need to close West Marine View Drive for some of the work.

■ **Can Port tenants influence the duration of the closure?**

City staff met with many Port stakeholders and listened to their concerns about the timing of the closure; staff is sensitive to the economic impact of the closure and is doing everything possible to minimize its duration. In response to stakeholder interests, staff pushed back hard on the contractor's previous request for a 22-day closure, and the contractor was able to reduce the scheduled closure to 10 days. They were able to reduce the length of the closure by increasing shift durations, adding manpower and overlapping activities. The timing of the closure is completely dependent on BNSF Railway and their approval of a 14-hour train-free window.

■ **Will Port tenants have access to their properties? Will visitors to the area be able to access my business?**

Yes! There will be no loss of access to businesses during the closure, but access will be directional from either the north or south during the 10-day closure. Some drivers will need to change their routes to reach their destinations. See the map at everettwa.gov/GAPB showing the north and south Port access routes.

■ **Will there be access for emergency vehicles?**

Yes! City staff is coordinating with emergency services on preferred routes to each side of the closure. Staff is also working with Port staff to ensure safety and security vehicle access.

■ **What is the 24-hour emergency contact?**

The City of Everett's 24-hour Dispatch line (425-257-8821) will manage all incoming calls, including those of an urgent nature. True emergencies should be reported to 911.

■ **Will there be parking available at the Grand Ave Park for people wanting to cross the bridge to the waterfront?**

The Grand Avenue Park Bridge is a utility bridge that has a pedestrian component. The purpose of the bridge is to carry storm and sewer utilities. The pedestrian feature is available for non-motorized travel from the Park and surrounding neighborhood to the waterfront or from the waterfront to the Park neighborhood. Ample parking is available on the waterfront for visitors who wish to cross the bridge.