



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# SR 305 Agate Pass Bridge Cleaning

# February 2015

## What's Happening?

As part of WSDOT's responsibility to maintain and inspect bridges along our state highways, the Agate Pass Bridge on State Route 305 will be deep-cleaned and inspected during a three-week period in February 2015. The work will require daytime single-lane closures across the bridge for 21 consecutive days.

### How will WSDOT manage traffic during the bridge cleaning?

WSDOT maintenance crews and Washington State Ferries coordinated to establish lane-closure hours that will minimize impacts to ferry commuters. Single-lane alternating traffic will be controlled by flaggers on both sides of the bridge. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be escorted across the bridge during work hours. Accommodations will be made for emergency vehicles.

### What should drivers expect?

Drivers should expect long delays during the Agate Pass Bridge cleaning. WSDOT advises drivers to plan extra time for their journeys, avoid discretionary trips and avoid the bridge during work hours listed below.

### Why isn't the work taking place at night?

The bridge is being cleaned by hand in very tight spaces. The work is labor-intensive and numerous crews will be on the bridge simultaneously. Daylight is necessary for crews to work safely and efficiently. We do not have enough crewmembers to work around the clock, and working at night introduces unacceptable safety risks and inefficiencies.

### What are the benefits to motorists once the bridge is cleaned?

Cleaning the bridge ensures thorough inspections and maintenance, and will keep the bridge reliable for years to come.

### Agate Pass Bridge Cleaning Traffic Impacts:

- Single-lane alternating traffic 7 days a week.

### When: February 9-28, 2015

- 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Monday through Friday
- 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday

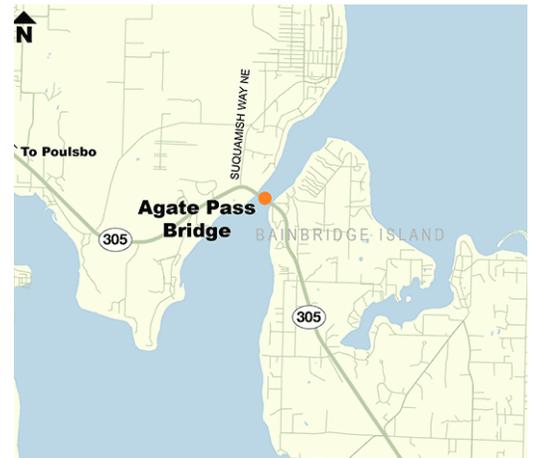
### Where can I get more information?

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[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR305/2015ORBridgeCleaning/default](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR305/2015ORBridgeCleaning/default)



Agate Pass Bridge on SR 305 in Kitsap County

### How will the bridge be cleaned?

Multiple crews will work simultaneously on the bridge using three Under-Bridge-Inspection-Trucks (UBITs) and other equipment to reach various areas of the bridge. They will remove many yards of hardened debris and animal droppings by hand, a time-consuming and labor-intensive process. Low-pressure, high volume flushing will occur after hand-cleaning.

In addition to cleaning the bridge, maintenance crews will repair and patch the bridge deck and roadway. They will seal joints, replace rivets, repair damaged rails and maintenance walkway railing. If the opportunity allows, crews will remove rust from the bridge.



Large amounts of hardened debris and animal droppings are hiding key joints on the Agate Pass steel truss bridge. Crews will remove many yards of this debris by hand from the bridge in February.

## Other questions...

### Why is the work being done in February?

February was chosen for several reasons. Peregrine falcons, a protected species, have historically nested on the bridge and February avoids their nesting season. February also has lower traffic volumes than summer travel months when inspections have previously taken place. Our bridge engineers will inspect the bridge following the cleaning, replacing the July inspection. Moving forward, the bridge's annual inspection will be in February.

### Is this work weather sensitive?

Yes. Freezing rain and snow could delay the work.

### Will the Bainbridge Island Ferry run be affected?

WSDOT maintenance crews will monitor ferry boat landings to minimize delays to motorists exiting each ferry. The ferry schedule will not be affected, however motorists are advised to give themselves extra time when driving to the terminal.

### How will this bridge work affect the Feb. 22 Cascade Bicycle Club Chilly Hilly Bicycle Ride?

The Chilly Hilly route does not cross the Agate Pass Bridge. Participants going to the event, however, could result in increased bicycle and vehicle traffic traveling across the bridge that day.

### Is WSDOT confident that the bridge can be cleaned in three weeks?

The bridge is over 1,000 feet long and three weeks is a tight timeline, but the effort will be concentrated and focused.

### How often will the bridge be cleaned moving forward?

The bridge will be cleaned annually using the low-pressure flush method.

### How many commuters use the bridge each day?

The Agate Pass Bridge is used by 22,000 vehicles each day.

### When was the bridge built?

The Agate Pass Bridge was built in 1950.



Crews will use three UBITS to clean and inspect Agate Pass Bridge in February 2015. This photo shows a UBIT being used to inspect the SR 167 Puyallup River Bridge.

### When was the last time the Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned?

The last time the Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned was 1991, when the bridge was last painted.

### Why has it been over 20 years since the bridge was cleaned?

The passage of the Clean Water Act in the 1970s called for bridges to be fully encased before cleaning them to retain the quality of water under the bridges. The full-encasement requirement is expensive, and WSDOT lacked the funds to do this.

As an alternative to encasing bridges, over the past four years WSDOT has spearheaded a pilot project with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) to measure effects on water quality using a different bridge-cleaning method. This method involves hand-removing debris from a bridge, followed by low-pressure flushing. During the pilot project, water quality samples were taken by DOE both upstream and downstream of the bridge being cleaned. The initial pilot project involved four bridges; it subsequently expanded to 15. Following the pilot project, DOE agreed that the two-phased cleaning technique caused only minimal changes, well below environmental thresholds, to water quality. The success of the pilot project has allowed WSDOT to continue cleaning bridges without encasing them, while still meeting Federal Highway and Ecology requirements.

To date, 22 bridges have been cleaned using this method. The Agate Pass Bridge will be the 23rd.

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