



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

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April 10, 2023

Chief Tim Manly  
Brinnon Fire Department  
PO Box 42  
Brinnon, WA 98320

Chief Tim McKern  
Quilcene Fire Rescue  
PO Box 433  
Quilcene, WA 98376

Dear Chief McKern and Chief Manly,

I am writing today to respond to your March 29, 2023, letter and to share the scheduled short-term closure dates for this summer's important repair work on the Hood Canal Bridge.

We have listened to the concerns of many and have adjusted the work schedule. The repairs are comprised of three components of the bridge: the pyramids, center locks and shock absorbers. Instead of making repairs to all three components over 4 weekends, we have separated out each item. This gives WSDOT more flexibility with the duration of the closures needed on the bridge. This approach has also changed our schedule.

Work is now planned for overnight hours in May, June, and September. We recognize that there is no good time to take the bridge out of service. The selected dates and times outlined below strike the best balance between securing the critical components to make the repairs during times when the bridge has lower traffic volumes.

The closures will affect emergency services' trips across the canal, so we're asking for every service provider's help to stay informed, stay engaged and plan ahead to make this go as smoothly as possible. I know our team met with you recently to explore how best to plan for these closures. Providing first responders time to plan their approach for providing services when the bridge is closed is very important and we know having firm closure timeframes to work with will facilitate that planning. We look forward to more dialogue and helping where we can with operational aids.

## HCB Closure Dates

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Turning to the timing, the Hood Canal Bridge short-term overnight closure dates for pyramid work are scheduled as follows:

### **May 13 to May 18**

Saturday, May 13 from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 14  
Monday, May 15 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tuesday, May 16  
Tuesday, May 16 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Wednesday, May 17  
Wednesday, May 17 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday, May 18

### **May 20 to May 25**

Saturday, May 20 from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 21  
Monday, May 22 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tuesday, May 23  
Tuesday, May 23 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Wednesday, May 24  
Wednesday, May 24 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday, May 25

### **June 10 to June 15**

Saturday, June 10 from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 11  
Monday, June 12 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tuesday, June 13  
Tuesday, June 13 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Wednesday, June 14  
Wednesday, June 14 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday, June 15

### **June 17 to June 22**

Saturday, June 17 from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 18  
Monday, June 19 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tuesday, June 20  
Tuesday, June 20 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Wednesday, June 21  
Wednesday, June 21 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday, June 22

Hood Canal Bridge short-term overnight closure dates for center lock and shock absorber work are planned to begin no sooner than Monday, September 10 and may include both weekday and weekend nighttime closures.

I need to emphasize that the "open" and closed" timeframes are subject to change as the work progresses and it will be critical for emergency services to stay abreast of real-time closure updates. We want to work with you and other service providers to identify the best and most reliable means of communicating any changes as they arise as the work progresses.

In response to the specific requests in your letter, relatively calm weather conditions are needed to perform the work on the pyramids and shock absorbers. This should correspond well to helicopter flight needs.

Regarding the more specific requests in anticipation of an increased traffic impact, I will pass along your desire for speed management and other concerns to our Traffic Operations team. We receive lots of requests for radar speed signs across the region, so our policy is to partner with a sponsoring community or local jurisdiction that front the

costs for the device(s). When funding is secured, we can work with the community to install the radar speed signs on US 101. Each radar speed sign is in the ballpark of \$15,000-\$20,000 to install.

As for additional measures for elk signing, we have a policy on when to post elk (or deer) warning signs and look into other mitigating measures on a case-by-case basis. The signs were upgraded several years ago, and we periodically reevaluate their need. A cursory review of WSDOT's database on deer and elk carcass counts and collision history do indicate that where signs are currently posted is still the focal point of elk activity (i.e., the resident elk presence you speak to), but overall deer and elk interactions have been level recently. With traffic impacts due to the bridge closure being kept to a minimum for now, we will continue to monitor the trend in elk activity versus traffic as we typically would.

We are updating our online resources with the updated closure dates this week. Please feel free to share this information through your communication channels. To stay up to date on the latest information for all the construction work in the north end, please encourage community members to follow our [online open house](#). It has information and links to projects in the area including Hood Canal Bridge, ways to sign up for updates and stay informed, and an e-mail address to ask us questions.

I appreciate your patience as we advance this important work and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Acting Region Administrator on behalf of

Steve Roark  
Olympic Region Administrator

SR:cb