

How to use the I-5 express lanes during Revive I-5 southbound lane reductions

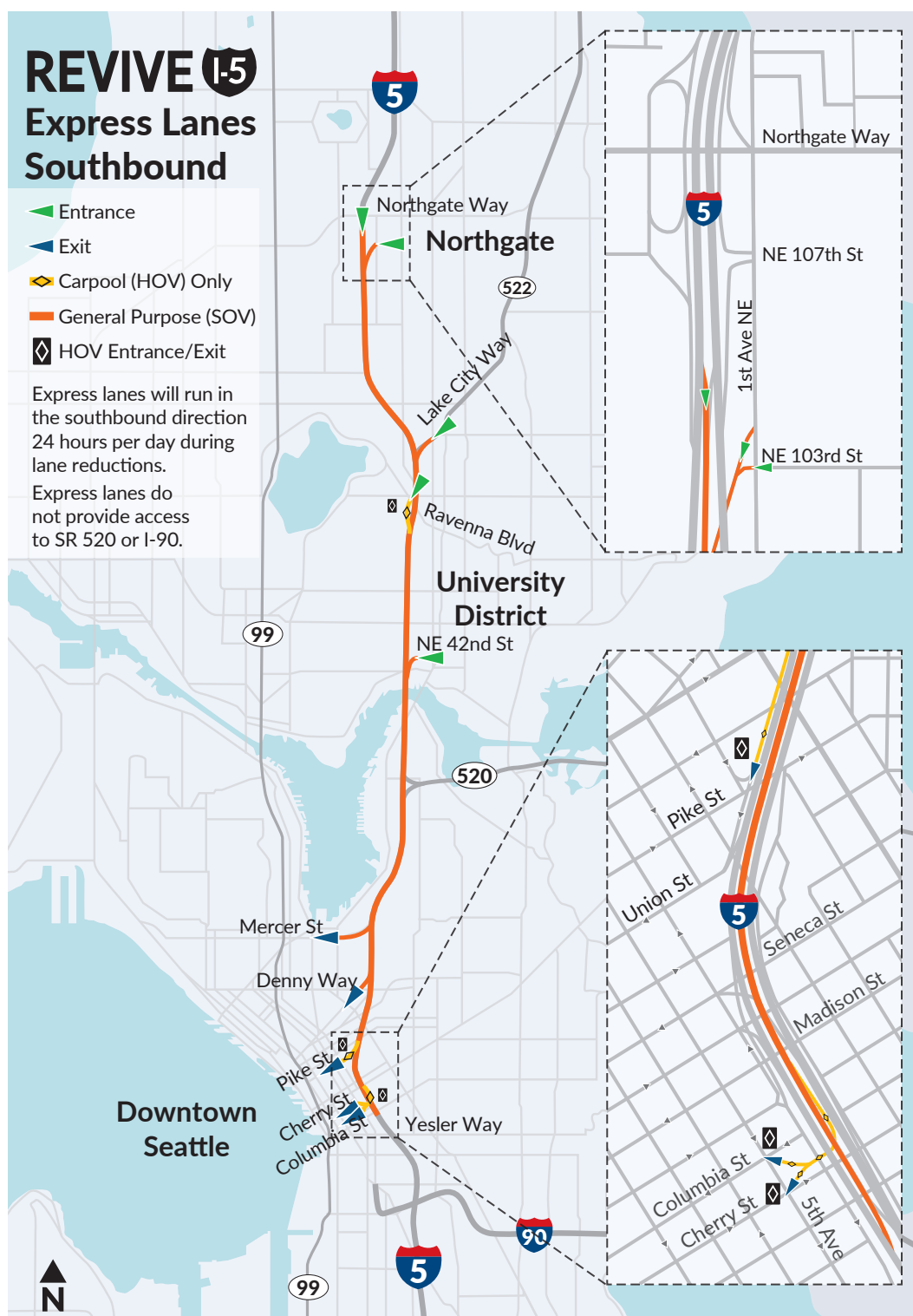
What's happening on I-5 through Seattle?

The next phase of the Revive I-5: Ship Canal Bridge Preservation project (bit.ly/ConstructionI-5) will include six weekends of southbound I-5 lane reductions across the Ship Canal Bridge through January 2026.

- 2025:**
 - Oct. 10 - 13
 - Oct. 17 - 20
 - Oct. 31 - Nov. 3
 - Nov. 21 - 24
 - Dec. 5 - 8
- 2026:**
 - Jan. 9 - 12

During southbound lane reductions, the I-5 express lanes will operate southbound-only 24 hours a day for the duration of each weekend. This means the express lanes will not reverse northbound on weekend afternoons like usual, so northbound traffic may experience delays.

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Who can use the express lanes?

Most southbound drivers can use the express lanes starting at Northgate, however, there are clearance and passenger requirements to remember:

- Vehicles over **14 feet 7 inches** cannot use the express lanes (e.g., oversized RVs, equipment trailers).
- Some on- and off-ramps are HOV-only. That means there must be two or more people riding in the vehicle. The following entrances/exits are HOV-only:
 - Northeast Ravenna Boulevard (entrance)
 - Pike Street (exit)
 - Fifth Avenue/Columbia-Cherry Street (exit)

Where can drivers get on the express lanes heading south?

The southbound express lanes start in Northgate with an entrance from the left southbound I-5 lanes just south of North Northgate Way. There are limited southbound entrances after that, including:

- 1st Avenue Northeast/Northeast 103rd Street
- Lake City Way Northeast
- Northeast Ravenna Boulevard (HOV-only)
- Northeast 42nd Street

Where can drivers exit the express lanes?

Exits providing access to downtown Seattle and South Lake Union include:

- Mercer Street
- Stewart Street
- Pike Street (HOV-only)
- Fifth Avenue/Columbia-Cherry Streets (HOV-Only)

To get back to mainline I-5, drivers should stay in the express lane's "through lane," which feeds back into the main interstate around Seattle's Chinatown-International District neighborhood.

Express lanes do not provide access to I-90 or SR 520.

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