Transportation

Will roads be closed if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases a large amount of water from Howard Hanson Dam?
Yes. Many homes and businesses in the lower Green River Valley that don’t typically see floodwater—including parts of Auburn, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and unincorporated King County—could be flooded. Major roads may be closed and transit service could be disrupted. Entire neighborhoods may need to be evacuated, depending on the extent of the flooding.

At what point will roads be closed?
Roads and bridges are closed when road crews determine they are no longer safe for travel due to flooding or other hazards, such as downed power lines. Never drive through standing water or drive around a road closed signs. This is how most lives are lost during floods.

How long does it take to reopen roads after a flood?
King County road crews will not reopen a road or bridge until it has been inspected for damage and debris has been cleared. Following a flood, it can take days for water to recede from roadways, depending on the extent of the flood and the ability for water to drain. That’s why the county suggests identifying alternate travel routes as part of your preparedness planning.

How can I get updated information about Green River flooding?
A variety of information sources are available to help residents plan for and take action, if necessary:

- King County has a Web site (http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/FloodPlan/GreenRiverValley.aspx) dedicated to providing the latest information concerning Green River flooding.
- You can also sign up for e-mail alerts from the Regional Public Information Network (www.RPIN.org), a one-stop resource for news and information from more than 100 government, transportation, utility, health, and emergency response agencies in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

Once floodwaters have receded, how will King County determine which roads to reopen first?
Roads are inspected and reopened when water recedes and the county has determined they can be safely reopened. County arterials will be prioritized for clean up and repair based on their overall importance in moving people and goods. Roads that carry a large amount of people and freight and connect to hospitals, fire stations, police stations, schools, and other important facilities are considered priorities.

Will evacuation routes be identified in response to the heightened threat of flooding?
Yes. King County and other government service providers in the valley have been working together to identify key evacuation routes. The goal of this coordinated effort is to identify the least flood-prone routes providing the quickest and safest passage away from areas considered vulnerable to flooding. Maps detailing these evacuation routes are available online. King County and other transportation
providers have also installed signs on roads pre-identified as evacuation routes. Information about evacuation routes is posted on the county’s Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans.

**Will flooding and road closures impact Metro Transit bus service?**
Depending on the extent of flooding in the Green River Valley, bus riders could experience disruptions in service. Sound Transit Sounder trips could also be impacted, which could result in increased demand for bus service.

Metro has identified several bus and DART routes that could be affected by significant flooding. Service at transfer locations, including the Kent Station/Transit Center and the Kent/James Street Park-and-Ride could also be impacted. Increased traffic on major transit corridors such as I-5 and I-405 could cause additional service delays.

**What is Metro doing to plan for these potential service disruptions?**
Given the potential for disruptions, Metro has identified replacement bus service when regular routes can no longer be operated due to flooding. However, service on some existing routes would have to be suspended until roadways could be reopened. That’s why transit customers should identify back-up travel plans as part of their pre-flood planning. Alternative service for Metro routes serving the Green River Valley will be available on Metro Online later this fall.