

I-5 ramp closure at Port of Tacoma Road in Fife



Drivers should be aware of a significant I-5 freeway ramp closure on Port of Tacoma Road (POTR) from March 6 to March 23, 2020 in Fife. The closure, due to a vital environmental cleanup project, will include:

UPDATE MARCH 19, 2020: THIS PROJECT HAS CONCLUDED, 4 DAYS EARLIER THAN PLANNED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

- 1 No I-5 access at all from 20th Street East in Fife.
- 2 20th Street East closed from Industry Drive East to beyond POTR. Only business traffic will have access.
- 3 Southbound I-5 access will be open for drivers entering I-5 from Pacific Highway side of POTR.
- 4 Northbound I-5 on-ramp access will be closed 10 days, but anticipated to reopen March 16 from Pacific Highway side of POTR. **UPDATE: The I-5 on ramp reopened March 12, 2020.**
- 5 Northbound I-5 Exit 136-A will be closed. Exit 136-B will be open for northbound I-5 exiting to POTR.

Drivers should plan ahead to avoid the work area. Please visit cityoffife.org/traffic for more detailed information and maps of the work area.

BACKGROUND OF CLOSURE

The closure is required for a substantial environmental cleanup project. On August 18, 2016, a fuel truck overturned as it made a left-hand turn onto northbound I-5 at Port of Tacoma Road. The overturned truck spilled about 7,500 gallons of fuel.

The truck owner's insurance company funded an investigation of that spilled fuel, and paid for a contractor to dig out 4,000 tons of contaminated soil that was not under pavement. About 6,800 gallons of that fuel spill has been removed to date, but about 700 gallons remain at the site beneath the road. A temporary solution to prevent the migration of the fuel and its impacts was implemented with the intention of an eventual permanent remedy.

That time for a permanent fix is now. Crews will be removing the remaining contamination from beneath the road and existing culvert at the spill site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The cleanup is funded by the insurance company representing the driver of the truck. The City of Fife has been working with the company contracted to do the cleanup. Those with questions can reach out directly to that company by contacting Eric Koltes at 425-395-0014 or EKoltes@trccompanies.com.

The exact closure times will take place from 7 p.m. March 6 to 5 a.m. March 23. Check cityoffife.org/traffic for important updates and route information.