

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, May 3, 2024.

We have lots of traffic news to report today. WSDOT has informed us that construction will begin Monday, May 13 for two new roundabouts on State Route 104. During construction, travelers can expect to see intermittent single-lane closures in the evenings between 9pm and 6am. Crews will maintain one lane in both directions during those closures as much as possible.

The roundabouts will be built one at a time, beginning with one at the intersection of State Routes 19 and 104. A single-lane roundabout will replace the existing intersection there, reducing the severity of collisions since vehicles will be entering at an angle. Temporary changes at that intersection will include turn restrictions and a 21-day closure. During the closure, travelers will be detoured via Center Road. A temporary signal will keep people moving through the detour.

The second roundabout will be built near the west end of the Hood Canal Bridge at the intersection of 104, Shine Road, and Paradise Bay Road – an intersection which has a history of serious injury collisions. Nearly 17 thousand vehicles and semis pass through there each day, as it's the only highway on or off the Olympic Peninsula. Construction of that roundabout will begin later this summer, with temporary intersection closures beginning this fall. This will be a single-lane metered roundabout; the meter will be active only after a closure of the Hood Canal Bridge to facilitate entry from the feeder roads onto 104. Crews expect to complete this work by spring of 2025.

In other news from WSDOT, travelers heading to Sequim or Port Angeles next week should expect one-way alternating traffic from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday on the section of US 101 that's roughly 2 miles south of the Jefferson-Clallam county line. This work is related to yet another fish barrier removal project. Interestingly enough, a report from representatives Steve Tharinger and Mike Chapman tells us that this year's legislative session has actually budgeted \$150 million to remove fish passage barriers.

Also from WSDOT – though you may already be aware – there are night closures ahead for the Hood Canal Bridge, starting Monday, May 13. You should also know there will be 30-to-40-minute openings during daylight hours this coming Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7. These closures will be to test the center locks that hold the bridge together.

In other highway news, the Jefferson County PUD has announced that next week, on Wednesday May 8, temporary closures will be needed on State Route 104 at Center Road to allow safe access for line crews to pull wire above the roadway. Traffic safety reader boards will be in place and flaggers will be onsite; Expect up to 30-minute delays.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, the Friends of the Port Townsend Golf Course are expecting about a thousand people to attend the course's grand opening celebration on Sunday this weekend. The event, which runs from 1 to 6pm, is in honor of the course's 120-year anniversary. Designed to herald a new era of management and stewardship, the event will feature food and live music, a fun run, mini golf, a driving range, disk golf, a putting contest, a kids play zone, nature walks, and an unveiling ceremony of the course's new

name and logo. Given the expected attendance levels, assume Sunday traffic and parking in the area will probably be congested.

And finally, here's a reassuring fact for those listeners worried about the political divide currently troubling our fair state: That legislative session report for 2024 from local representatives Tharinger and Chapman tells us that of the 373 bills passed in this past legislative session, 80% had strong bipartisan support, with 236 bills receiving unanimous yes votes from both Democrats and Republicans. Maybe there's hope for some unity after all...

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and again at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thanks for listening.