

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** October 10, 2009  
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## **Autistic Child Struck by Vehicle While Attempting to Cross Freeway**

An 11-year-old autistic boy sustained life threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle as he was attempting to cross the northbound lanes of SR-99 just north of SR-599 in Tukwila.

At 4:45pm the Washington State Patrol received reports of a juvenile male walking on the left shoulder of the northbound lanes of SR-99. Less than 1 minute later WSP received additional 911 calls reporting that the boy had been hit.

At 4:29pm the autistic boy's aunt had reported him missing from his Seatac residence. As family members, neighbors, and King County Sheriff's deputies were frantically searching the area, the boy had wandered toward the freeway, crossed the southbound lanes, and was attempting to cross the northbound lanes when he was hit by a 1-ton flatbed pickup.

The driver of the truck, a 46-year-old Seatac resident, was not injured. Alcohol and/or drugs are believed to not be a factor and no charges are pending at this time.

The boy was treated by police and aid personnel at the scene. He was transported to Harborview Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

The right northbound lane of SR-99 was closed for just under 3 hours while troopers investigated the scene.

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