

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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

Date: October 18, 2009
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Section of I-5 Closed After Trailer Collides With Sign Bridge

All four lanes of the southbound I-5 collector distributor (CD) through downtown Seattle were forced to be shut down after a trailer collided with a large sign bridge just south of the Yesler Way overpass.

The sign bridge, which crosses over all 4 lanes of the CD, sustained severe damage. One of the two vertical support poles completely dislodged and a large crack formed in the clamp connecting the sign bridge to the second vertical pole. The sign bridge, which directs southbound I-5 traffic on the CD to eastbound I-90, southbound I-5, and three surface streets, was deemed unstable and the roadway was shut down for fear that it may fall onto the CD lanes of I-5.

At approximately 2:35 p.m. Washington State Patrol communications began receiving reports that a white 1996 Ford F250, towing a double axle utility trailer, had collided with the right jersey wall and the vertical support poles that hold up the sign bridge. The collision occurred on the mainline of southbound I-5 just south of Yesler Way. Debris from the collision fell onto the CD lanes causing minor damage to 3 vehicles.

The trailer was loaded with concrete pavers. It is believed that a malfunction with the trailer's axle caused the trailer to whip uncontrollably. No injuries were reported.

The right lane of southbound I-5 on the mainline was closed for just over 3 hours while crews removed the truck and utility trailer from the roadway. At the time of this release all southbound I-5 CD lanes remain closed while crews work to remove the sign bridge. Motorists who plan on traveling south through downtown Seattle are encouraged to exit onto eastbound SR-520 and proceed to southbound I-405. SR-99, SR-509, and parallel surface streets are also viable options.



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