

= Washington State Route 16 =

State Route 16 (SR 16) is a 27 @. @ 16 @- @ mile @- @ long (43 @. @ 71 km) state highway in the U.S. state of Washington , connecting Pierce and Kitsap counties . The highway , signed as east ? west , begins at an interchange with Interstate 5 (I @- @ 5) in Tacoma and travels through the city as a freeway towards the Tacoma Narrows . SR 16 crosses the narrows onto the Kitsap Peninsula on the partially tolled Tacoma Narrows Bridge and continues through Gig Harbor and Port Orchard before the freeway ends in Gorst . The designation ends at an intersection with SR 3 southwest of the beginning of its freeway through Bremerton and Poulsbo . SR 16 is designated as a Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) corridor within the National Highway System as the main thoroughfare connecting Tacoma to Naval Base Kitsap and a part of the Highways of Statewide Significance program .

SR 16 was created during the 1964 state highway renumbering as the successor to Primary State Highway 14 (PSH 14) . PSH 14 , which had itself been the successor to State Road 14 , traveled northeast from Shelton to Gorst and south to Gig Harbor . PSH 14 was extended over the Tacoma Narrows in 1939 on the unfinished Tacoma Narrows Bridge , which would later collapse months after opening in 1940 , into Tacoma over Secondary State Highway 14C (SSH 14C) . SR 16 has been expanded into a freeway in stages beginning with the original Nalley Valley Viaduct in Tacoma in 1971 , and ending with the opening of an interchange near Port Orchard in 2009 . Future improvements to the corridor include the installation of high @- @ occupancy vehicle lanes that connect to I @- @ 5 and the rest of the freeway network in Pierce County , scheduled for completion by 2022 .

= = Route description = =

SR 16 begins on the Nalley Valley Viaduct in Tacoma at an interchange with I @- @ 5 between the Tacoma Mall and Downtown . The freeway travels northwest over the Sound Transit Sounder commuter train to a semi @- @ directional T interchange with Sprague Avenue , where it begins paralleling the Scott Pierson Trail . SR 16 continues west past a diamond interchange with Union Avenue and an interchange with Center Street at Cheney Stadium towards the Skyline neighborhood of North Tacoma . The freeway travels around Tacoma Community College past partial cloverleaf interchanges with 19th Street and Pearl Street , the latter being signed as SR 163 as it heads north into Ruston and towards Vashon Island . SR 16 continues west past a partial cloverleaf interchange with Jackson Avenue and towards the Tacoma Narrows on the twin @- @ suspension Tacoma Narrows Bridges . The 5 @, @ 979 @- @ foot @- @ long (1 @, @ 822 m) westbound span and the tolled 5 @, @ 400 @- @ foot @- @ long (1 @, @ 600 m) eastbound span combine to carry six lanes of SR 16 onto the Kitsap Peninsula . The eastbound span is tolled via electronic toll collection through the Good To Go ! program on the Kitsap Peninsula side of the bridge . Tolls for two passengers and / or a motorcycle are set at \$ 4 for Good To Go ! accounts and \$ 6 collected at the toll plaza , with prices increasing for each additional passenger by \$ 2 for Good To Go ! accounts and by \$ 2 @. @ 50 for non @- @ Good To Go ! users .

SR 16 continues onto the Kitsap Peninsula and intersects 24th Street in a partial diamond interchange east of the Tacoma Narrows Airport as it passes the toll plaza for the eastbound Tacoma Narrows Bridge . The freeway travels northwest through Gig Harbor past interchanges with Olympic Drive and Wollochet Drive near Gig Harbor High School before it reaches Henderson Bay . SR 16 continues through an interchange with Burnham Drive and past the Washington Corrections Center for Women and St. Anthony Hospital towards Purdy , intersecting the southern terminus of SR 302 . The freeway bypasses Purdy and Peninsula High School to the east before intersecting SR 302 Spur and entering Kitsap County . SR 16 passes the community of Burley and intersects its main access highway , Burley @- @ Olalla Road , in an interchange before entering the city of Port Orchard . The freeway ends after serving as the western terminus of SR 160 and SR 166 on the west side of the city . The four @- @ lane highway continues west along the Sinclair Inlet into Gorst , intersecting its spur route and ending at an intersection with SR 3 .

Every year , the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2012 , WSDOT calculated that the busiest section of SR 16 was west of its interchange with Union Avenue in downtown Tacoma , serving 112 @, @ 000 vehicles , while the least busiest section is after the SR 160 interchange west of Port Orchard , serving 32 @, @ 000 vehicles . SR 16 is designated as a Strategic Highway Network corridor , connecting Naval Base Kitsap to the state highway system along with SR 3 , within the National Highway System that classifies it as important to the national economy , defense , and mobility . WSDOT designates the entire route of SR 16 as a Highway of Statewide Significance , which includes highways that connect major communities in the state of Washington .

= = History = =

The present route of SR 16 roughly follows the route of several state highways signed during the 20th century , the first of which was State Road 14 . State Road 14 traveled north from Shelton to Gorst and south into Gig Harbor as the primary connector between the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas . State Road 14 was re @-@ designated in 1937 as PSH 14 and included a secondary highway named SSH 14C that traveled from Gig Harbor to the Tacoma Narrows , site of an under @-@ construction suspension bridge to open in 1940 . PSH 14 was extended southeast over SSH 14C and the unfinished Tacoma Narrows Bridge into the city of Tacoma as part of a transfer of bridge ownership to the state of Washington in 1939 . After the collapse of the original bridge on November 7 , 1940 , PSH 14 was truncated to Gig Harbor and traffic was redirected to a ferry landing in Manchester . The second Tacoma Narrows Bridge was opened on October 14 , 1950 , and PSH 14 was extended the following year to an intersection with U.S. Route 99 (US 99) in Downtown Tacoma .

PSH 14 was replaced by SR 16 under the sign route system created during the 1964 state highway renumbering , traveling from US 99 in Tacoma to SR 3 in Gorst . WSDOT began converting the SR 16 corridor to a controlled @-@ access freeway with the construction of the Nalley Valley Viaduct in 1969 , designed with tetrapod columns at a cost of \$ 3 @. @ 67 million . The viaduct opened in 1971 and connected SR 16 to I @-@ 5 in Tacoma , part of a new freeway replacing Bantz Boulevard between I @-@ 5 and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge . A bypass of Purdy on the Pierce ? Kitsap county line was opened in 1977 and the former route of SR 16 was divided between SR 302 and its spur route . The remainder of SR 16 in Port Orchard was upgraded to a freeway during the 1980s ; however , an at @-@ grade intersection remained at Burley @-@ Olalla Road until a diamond interchange was completed in 2009 .

WSDOT has been installing high @-@ occupancy vehicle lanes (HOV lanes) on SR 16 as part of a Pierce County HOV system , scheduled for completion by 2022 . Beginning in the early 2000s , frontage roads and the Scott Pierson Trail were built along the freeway and sound walls were erected near residential areas in Tacoma . From Tacoma to Gig Harbor , WSDOT began installing exit numbers to interchanges with SR 16 that correspond to its milepost . The Nalley Valley Viaduct was replaced by a new westbound structure in 2011 , carrying all four lanes of SR 16 towards I @-@ 5 in Tacoma , while the original viaduct was closed and demolished . The eastbound Nalley Valley Viaduct began construction in November 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by WSDOT in 2014 , with the westbound viaduct being widened to its full planned width .

On February 23 , 2016 a 10 @-@ mile section of SR 16 beginning from the Kitsap @-@ Pierce county line , and extended North to Gorst was dedicated as the Washington State Patrol Trooper Tony Radulescu Memorial Highway , in honor of the WSP Trooper who was killed in the line of duty on that stretch of highway four years earlier .

= = = Tacoma Narrows Bridge = = =

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge , which carries SR 16 across the Tacoma Narrows between Tacoma

and the Kitsap Peninsula , was first proposed by locals during the late 19th century and credited to local rancher John G. Shindler while traveling through the Narrows by steamboat in 1888 . The Northern Pacific Railway planned to build a trestle bridge over the Narrows to connect its western terminus in Tacoma to the proposed Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Port Orchard . The Washington State Legislature , after extensive lobbying by local auto groups and businesses , authorized the construction of a road bridge over the Narrows in February 1929 . The Washington Toll Bridge Authority was created in March 1937 to construct and maintain toll bridges throughout the state , beginning with the Tacoma Narrows Bridge from Tacoma to Gig Harbor and the Lake Washington Floating Bridge from Seattle to Mercer Island .

The bridge , designed by American suspension bridge engineer Leon Moisseiff , began construction on November 23 , 1938 , by the Pacific @-@ General @-@ Columbia Company , a partnership between three companies that received a \$ 2 @. @ 88 million grant from the Public Works Administration and a \$ 3 @. @ 52 million loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation , to be repaid through tolls . The Tacoma Narrows Bridge opened on July 1 , 1940 , and included ceremonies attended by an estimated 10 @, @ 000 people , including Governor of Washington Clarence D. Martin . The 2 @, @ 800 @-@ foot @-@ long (850 m) bridge , christened the name " Galloping Gertie " by its construction workers , cost \$ 6 @. @ 4 million to build and became the third longest suspension span in the world after its completion . The following day , the art deco MV Kalakala was chosen to make the commemorative final ferry crossing of the Tacoma Narrows . The original toll for the bridge cost 55 cents per car , 15 cents per extra passenger , and 15 cents for pedestrians . The bridge , which was prone to movement during windstorms , collapsed at approximately 11 : 00 am on November 7 , 1940 , because of winds in excess of 42 miles per hour (68 km / h) . The only fatality during the collapse was a dog trapped in a car belonging to local reporter Leonard Coatsworth of Tacoma .

A second , 5 @, @ 979 @-@ foot @-@ long (1 @, @ 822 m) Tacoma Narrows Bridge was constructed between 1948 and 1951 , officially opening to traffic on October 14 , 1950 . The bridge was designed to let wind pass through the structure with perforated girders and open grating in the deck . Traffic on the two @-@ lane bridge began increasing from 6 @, @ 000 vehicles in 1960 to nearly 67 @, @ 000 vehicles by 1990 , according to WSDOT AADT data . The increased traffic prompted the Washington State Legislature to approve the construction of a tolled eastbound bridge in 1999 , to be finished during the early 2000s . The 5 @, @ 400 @-@ foot @-@ long (1 @, @ 600 m) eastbound bridge was constructed between 2002 and 2007 , opening on July 15 , 2007 , during ceremonies attended by 60 @, @ 000 people , including Governor Christine Gregoire . The newer eastbound bridge provided the debut for the Good To Go ! RFID pass from WSDOT , which allows frequent users to bypass the toll booths by way of a prepaid transponder placed on the inside of the windshield and reducing the toll .

= = Bannered routes = =

= = = Spur route = = =

SR 16 has a 0 @. @ 39 @-@ mile @-@ long (0 @. @ 63 km) spur route located in Gorst that travels west from SR 16 to southbound SR 3 . The spur route was added to the state highway system in 1988 after SR 16 was re @-@ aligned to avoid traffic signals in Gorst . WSDOT included the road in its annual AADT survey in 2012 and calculated that between 4 @, @ 100 and 8 @, @ 600 vehicles used the spur route .

= = = Alternate route = = =

SR 16 has a 0 @. @ 68 @-@ mile @-@ long (1 @. @ 09 km) alternate route serving the eastbound toll plaza of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Pierce County . The alternate route was added to the state highway system in 2007 after the completion of the eastbound Tacoma Narrows

Bridge on July 15 . WSDOT included the road in its annual AADT survey in 2012 and calculated that 9 @, @ 100 vehicles used the alternate route .

= = Exit list = =