

= Washington State Route 509 =

State Route 509 (SR 509) is a 35 @. @ 17 @- @ mile @- @ long (56 @. @ 60 km) state highway in the U.S. state of Washington , connecting Tacoma in Pierce County to Seattle in King County . The highway travels north from Interstate 705 (I @- @ 705) in Tacoma to SR 99 south of downtown Seattle . It serves cities along the Puget Sound and west of Seattle ? Tacoma International Airport in south King County , including Federal Way , Des Moines , and Burien . SR 509 is part of the National Highway System and is a limited @- @ access highway near the Port of Tacoma and from Burien to its northern terminus in Seattle . Prior to the 1964 highway renumbering , the highway was part of Secondary State Highway 1V (SSH 1V) from Tacoma to Des Moines and SSH 1K from Des Moines to Seattle . SR 509 was re @- @ aligned onto the Burien Freeway in 1968 and the Port of Tacoma bypass in 1997 , coinciding with the opening of its interchange with I @- @ 705 and the cable @- @ stayed 21st Street Bridge . Various proposals since 1988 have recommended building a freeway extension of SR 509 within the city of SeaTac , connecting the Burien Freeway to I @- @ 5 , that remains unbuilt .

= = Route description = =

SR 509 begins as South 21st Street at a single @- @ point urban interchange with I @- @ 705 in downtown Tacoma in Pierce County , providing access to the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington and the Tacoma Link light rail line on Pacific Avenue . The highway travels east over the Thea Foss Waterway on the cable @- @ stayed 21st Street Bridge into the Port of Tacoma as a four @- @ lane limited @- @ access highway , intersecting Portland Avenue in a half @- @ diamond interchange before crossing the Puyallup River . SR 509 continues east , parallel to a City of Tacoma rail line through a partial cloverleaf interchange with Port of Tacoma Road before the divided highway ends at Taylor Way . The highway turns northwest along the Hylebos Waterway as Marine View Drive through the neighborhood of Northeast Tacoma towards Browns Point . SR 509 passes through Dash Point and its state park along the Puget Sound into King County and the city of Federal Way . The highway travels east as Dash Point Road through Federal Way past Decatur and Federal Way high schools before a junction with SR 99 west of I @- @ 5 . The concurrent SR 99 and SR 509 travel north as the Pacific Highway past Highline Community College to an intersection with SR 516 in western Kent . SR 509 turns west to form a concurrency with SR 516 , heading past Mount Rainier High School and into Des Moines , where SR 516 ends .

SR 509 continues north onto Marine View Drive through the city of Normandy Park and into SeaTac . The highway turns southeast onto Ambaum Boulevard and Des Moines Memorial Drive to a trumpet interchange , the southern terminus of a limited @- @ access freeway section of SR 509 . The four @- @ lane freeway travels west of Seattle ? Tacoma International Airport through a closed half @- @ diamond interchange with South 176th Street and a partial cloverleaf interchange with South 160th Street before entering the city of Burien . SR 509 passes Highline High School before reaching a partial cloverleaf interchange with Southwest 148th Street and the western terminus of SR 518 . The freeway continues north into the West Seattle neighborhood of Seattle and intersects South 128th Street in a diamond interchange and South 112th Street in a half @- @ diamond interchange . SR 509 enters the Industrial District of Seattle and heads through an interchange with Cloverdale Street and Myers Way before ending at a partial cloverleaf interchange with SR 99 south of the First Avenue South Bridge over the Duwamish Waterway . The roadway continues north as the SR 99 divided highway toward downtown Seattle and the Alaskan Way Viaduct .

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 annual average daily traffic (AADT) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2011 , WSDOT calculated that the busiest section of SR 509 was the limited @- @ access highway between Burien and its northern terminus in Seattle , serving 54 @, @ 000 vehicles , while the least busiest section was within Dash Point and Dash Point State Park , serving 2 @, @ 600 vehicles . SR 509 between SeaTac and Seattle is designated as part of the National Highway

System , which includes roadways important to the national economy , defense , and mobility . The highway from Tacoma to Federal Way and from SeaTac to Seattle are designated as part of WSDOT 's Highways of Statewide Significance , which includes highways that connect major communities in the state of Washington .

= = History = =

The present route of SR 509 from Des Moines to Seattle roughly follows a wagon road constructed in the late 1890s by King County along the Puget Sound . The highway between Federal Way and Kent was codified in 1923 as part of State Road 1 and in 1937 as Primary State Highway 1 (PSH 1) . During the creation of the primary and secondary state highways in 1937 , the highway between Tacoma and Federal Way was designated as SSH 1V and the highway between Des Moines and Seattle was designated as SSH 1K . SSH 1V traveled 19 @. @ 54 miles (31 @. @ 45 km) north from PSH 1 in Tacoma through the Port of Tacoma on the 11th Street Bridge and the Blair Bridge , opened in 1913 and 1951 respectively , to Federal Way , ending at an intersection with SSH 1K . SSH 1K traveled 12 @. @ 76 miles (20 @. @ 54 km) south from PSH 1 at the First Avenue South Bridge in Seattle through Burien and east through Des Moines to PSH 1 in Midway . The two highways were combined during the 1964 highway renumbering to become SR 509 and was codified into law in 1970 . SR 509 was realigned onto the newly constructed north ? south Burien Freeway in 1968 , extending from Seattle to SeaTac . The highway was originally routed through Saltwater State Park on Marine View Drive until 1991 , when SR 509 was moved to two concurrencies with SR 99 in Federal Way and SR 516 in Des Moines .

The freeway was planned to be extended south to SR 516 in the 1970s after a 4 @- @ mile (6 @. @ 4 km) right @- @ of @- @ way was acquired by WSDOT before the project was canceled . The King County Department of Public Works recommended extending SR 509 southeast from South 188th Street to I @- @ 5 in 1988 , with construction planned to begin in 1999 at an estimated cost of \$ 252 million in 1996 , raised to \$ 1 @. @ 4 billion a decade later . A freeway bypass of the Port of Tacoma was opened in 1997 and the highway was truncated to its current southern terminus , a single @- @ point urban interchange with I @- @ 705 in downtown Tacoma near the 21st Street Bridge . No major revisions to the route of SR 509 have occurred since 1997 , however , WSDOT is proposing a freeway extension to SR 509 to I @- @ 5 along with interchange improvements and new arterial streets .

= = Major intersections = =