

N.E. 45th St. Viaduct to be closed

The Northeast 45th Street Viaduct, next to University Village, will be closed beginning Monday to permit rebuilding of the eastern, lower portion of the structure which burned in a 1966 fire.

The viaduct will be closed about nine months but city officials hope work will be completed by the opening of fall classes at the University of Washington.

An estimated 20,000 vehicles use the viaduct daily.

Westbound traffic will be routed around the viaduct via Union Bay Place Northeast, Northeast Blakely Street and Ravenna Place Northeast to Northeast Ravenna Boulevard, then south on 20th Avenue Northeast to Northeast 50th Street and Northeast 45th Street.

Eastbound traffic will be routed from Northeast 45th Street north on 22nd Avenue Northeast to Ravenna Place Northeast at Northeast 54th Street and then follow the same route as westbound traffic.

In 1973, voters approved the viaduct reconstruction as part of a package of bridge-rehabilitation jobs. The burned wooden pilings and decking will be replaced with reinforced concrete.