



**Washington State Ferries
Long Range Plan Technical Advisory Group Meeting #3
January 18, 2018
Washington State Ferries | 2901 3rd Ave, Seattle
Rainier Conference Room
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome

Carmen Bendixen, Washington State Ferries (WSF) Senior Transportation Planner and meeting facilitator, welcomed the group to the third WSF 2040 Long Range Plan Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. Ray Deardorf, WSF Senior Planning Manager, facilitated introductions and welcomed KPFF, the consultant team hired to develop the Long Range Plan.

Carmen reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives, which included providing a recap of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, introducing the consultant team, reviewing the draft work plan, presenting ridership forecast results, and providing an overview of the WSF budget planning process.

SWOT Analysis Recap

Carmen thanked the group for participating in the SWOT analysis at their last meeting. She reviewed the top strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats the group identified during the exercise.

The most commonly suggested strengths were the dedicated staff and crew, convenient location of terminals and destinations, and picturesque views. Weaknesses included real-time customer information, aging fleet, and parking at terminals. Common opportunities were transit connections, simplifying loading, and using real-time data to manage parking. Threats included on-time performance, lack of funding, and population trends.

The full summary of the SWOT analysis can be found in the September 21, 2017 TAG meeting summary.

Long Range Plan Work Plan

Mike Anderson, KPFF Director of Marine Transportation, introduced himself and the consultant team, provided an overview of the team's qualifications, and expressed enthusiasm to begin working with the TAG throughout plan development. Kristen Kissinger, KPFF Project Manager, reviewed the team structure and work plan.

Ray Deardorf reviewed the Long Range Plan work plan and discussed the proposed plan approach. The work plan includes the following phases, with the final plan delivered to the Legislature by January 1, 2019.

- Phase 1: Data Collection (January - February 2018)
- Phase 2: Review, Assessment, and Development (March - May 2018)
- Phase 3: Draft Plan (June - August 2018)
- Phase 4: Comment Incorporation and Further Analysis as Needed (September - December 2018)

Ridership Forecast Results

Ray reviewed ridership forecast results and shared key findings, demographic trends, and ridership forecasts by route.

TAG members gave the following questions and comments:

- Ian Munce, City of Tacoma, encouraged WSF to expand the planning horizon and consider landside issues, such as new travel options and funding sources. The end result should provide specific recommendations for new initiatives.
- Brian Wood, Island County, asked if ridesharing is included in the forecast model.
- Frank Nelson, Bremerton Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC), asked if WSF has conducted forecasting on parking at terminals.
- Chris Hammer, City of Bainbridge Island, noted that about 50 percent of the expected growth on the island will be in Winslow, and thus within walking distance of the ferry terminal.
- David Forte, Kitsap County, asked if WSF would be looking at other peak periods besides the PM peak.
- Greg Lerner, King County Water Taxi, asked if the model could include demand for transit connections; in the case of light rail to West Seattle, it will not connect directly at the Fauntleroy terminal so an additional transfer would be required and that could affect demand at Fauntleroy.

Ferry Budget Planning

Rick Singer, WSF Director of Finance and Administration, presented a WSF financial overview. He reviewed background and challenges, revenue sources, expenses, and requirements for the 2040 Long Range Plan.

TAG members provided these questions and comments:

- Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County, asked if WSF has evaluated alternate fuel types to reduce diesel consumption. How will fuel type be addressed in the plan?
- When reviewing the seven-step investment process slide, Frank Nelson, Bremerton FAC, commented “identify consequences” should be included as an important step.

Rick encouraged TAG members to submit any follow-up questions by email to Ray.

Additional Questions and Comments

Participants provided the following additional question and comments:

- Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit, asked about the Bremerton route schedule change.
- Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County, asked if there is an opportunity to provide additional data sources and noted Jefferson County is currently updating its comprehensive plan.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Ray reviewed next steps, including analyzing pedestrian and bicycle forecast data, recreational traffic, and total annual forecast. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15. Agenda topics will include reviewing plan elements and updated ridership forecasts as well as previewing public meeting materials.

The project team thanked the group for their time and contributions to the discussion. The group adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Meeting Attendees:

- Nazmul Alam, WSDOT Olympic Region
- Greg Beardsley, Vashon FAC
- Gil Cerise, PSRC
- Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County
- David Forte, Kitsap County
- Chris Hammer, City of Bainbridge Island
- Greg Lerner, King County Water Taxi
- Patricia Love, City of Mukilteo
- Ian Munce, City of Tacoma
- Frank Nelson, Bremerton FAC
- Evan Olsen, WSDOT Public Transportation
- Matt Shelden, Sound Transit
- Benjamin Smith, City of Seattle (SDOT)
- Kate Tourtellot, Community Transit
- Richard Warren, WSDOT Multimodal Planning
- Phil Williams, City of Edmonds
- Brian Wood, Island County

Participating by phone:

- Jason Beloso, WSDOT
- Charlotte Claybrooke, WSDOT Active Transportation Division
- Max Henkle, Pierce Transit
- Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit
- John Shambaugh, WSDOT NW Region
- Peter Stackpole, Pierce Transit

Project Team:

- Carmen Bendixen, Washington State Ferries
- Stephanie Cirkovich, Washington State Ferries
- Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries
- Charles Prestrud, Washington State Ferries
- Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries
- Rick Singer, Washington State Ferries
- Mike Anderson, KPFF
- Kristen Kissinger, KPFF
- Laura LaBissoniere Miller, PRR
- Samantha DeMars-Hanson, PRR