



Jan. 28, 2011

This Week:

- Temporary Closure of the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and Alternate Service between Edmonds and Clinton
- Hyak Paint Job Complete
- Keller Ferry: New Addition to 5-1-1
- Meeting with Governor and Representatives of Ferry-Served Counties
- Update on Water Dispensers at WSF Headquarters Building

Temporary Closure of the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and Alternate Service between Edmonds and Clinton

The Mukilteo ferry terminal will temporarily close for three extended weekends this spring for extensive preservation work. Riders of the Mukilteo/Clinton ferry route should begin making alternate travel plans now. Dates of temporary closure are: Friday through Sunday on March 18-20, March 25-27 and April 1-3. During the closures crews will work on the transfer span and apron that link the vessel and the dock, replacing mechanical and electrical systems that operate these movable components.

This work is vitally important to the safety of the Mukilteo terminal. We also realize it's critical that we get this work done with as little disruption as possible to our riders who need to get to work, to school or other important activities.

While the Mukilteo/Clinton ferry route will be out of service, WSDOT will provide alternate service between Edmonds and Clinton. The Edmonds/Clinton ferry schedule will have 17 sailings on Friday and 16 on Saturday and Sunday, compared to 37 and 35 respectively on the normal Mukilteo/Clinton route and schedule. The crossing time between Edmonds and Clinton is approximately 50 minutes. The schedule is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/mukilteoterminal/preservation/MukilteoTerminalClosure.htm.

WSF is working with local community groups to minimize disruptions where possible. Customers can contact sharris@wsdot.wa.gov to set up temporary carpools so they will receive preferential loading. For more information, visit the website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/mukilteoterminal/preservation.

WSDOT will distribute copies of the Edmonds/Clinton schedule and laminated Clinton dashboard signs at ferry terminals in February. WSDOT will also provide Clinton-bound customers information on how to access the Edmonds terminal to lessen potential traffic impacts.

Hyak Paint Job Complete

Many of you have asked me about paint on the Hyak and I am happy to report that a new paint job on the vessel is complete. It was finished on Jan. 22 at Dakota Creek Industries in Anacortes. The Hyak is now serving on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route. We've made it a priority to paint vessels with unsightly rust and we will be addressing three more this year - Yakima, Kittitas, and Chelan. You may view before and after photos of the Hyak at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157625920069878/

Keller Ferry: New Addition to 5-1-1

Customers who call 5-1-1 can now get information about the state's Keller Ferry in Eastern Washington on the Columbia River. When prompted, you can either speak or press buttons to reach Washington State Ferries and then you are given an option to reach information about the Keller Ferry.

Meeting with Governor and Representatives of Ferry-Served Counties

On Thursday afternoon, I participated in a meeting with Governor Gregoire and representatives of ferry-served counties to discuss ferry funding needs and the Governor's proposal for a regional ferry district. The discussion was positive and focused on working together to meet the challenges that face the citizens of ferry-served counties and WSF. If you would like to learn more about the Regional Ferry District proposal, you can refer back to my Jan. 7 weekly report at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/

Update on Water Dispensers at WSF Headquarters Building

You may recall that I reported in my weekly on September 24, 2010 that nine of 22 water dispensers in our Seattle headquarters building at 2901 3rd Avenue were discovered to have been incorrectly hooked up to the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system (see www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/). We hired a toxicologist to oversee a rigorous sampling of the dispensers in the building and perform an assessment. WSF employees met with the toxicologist this week and were informed that while levels of sodium, nitrite, and arsenic were elevated, the arsenic level was below Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and sodium levels were a small increase compared to levels in the typical U.S. diet. Nitrite levels were elevated above EPA standards and may have affected certain sensitive populations if they had consumed approximately two liters per day, five days per week, 250 days per year, for five years. Employees also were informed that nitrite is cleared from the body and does not accumulate. WSDOT is seeking to recover costs of the toxicology assessment from Emerald City Water, the company that hooked up the dispensers to the wrong water source.

Next Week:

- Presentations to both the House and Senate Transportation Committees
- Continuation of briefings with new legislators to the House and Senate Transportation Committees

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/.

To unsubscribe, reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject of the e-mail.