



Washington State Ferries



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Sept. 26, 2014

## This week:

- Welcome aboard
- Coupeville terminal update
- Crews modify *Tokitae* ramps this week
- *Yakima* main engine repairs
- Customer compliment: Professional and courteous

## Welcome aboard

As I close out my first week as Assistant Secretary, I am looking forward to the days ahead serving the customers and employees of our nation's largest ferry system. In the near term, my biggest priority will be maintaining our 99 percent service reliability. During my first 30 days I will be spending the majority of my time traveling around the system and meeting with employees, labor partners and shipyard contractors to become familiar with the daily workings of WSF.

This week has already been busy. I had a safety briefing and overview of our security and emergency response facilities at WSF Headquarters and toured the Operations Center. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to tour the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility and to chat with five staff chief engineers on the Seattle/Bainbridge route and at Eagle Harbor. This morning, I toured Vigor Industrial shipyard to get a sneak peek of the new Olympic Class vessel *Samish* under construction. I admire the constant effort of our crews in the fleet, at Eagle Harbor, and at WSF Headquarters. I look forward to talking with more of you in the coming weeks.

I am also looking forward to sharing these weekly updates about our progress and the activities that happen every day to move 22.5 million riders and 10 million vehicles each year. I appreciate the feedback I've already received from employees and others. Feel free to [email me](#) your thoughts and suggestions.



*Talking with WSF staff at Vigor Industrial on Friday morning*

### **Coupeville Terminal update**

Yesterday, crews detected movement in the transfer span, the part that cars drive over to board the vessel, at the Coupeville terminal. We immediately shut down the terminal to assess the apron hinge mechanisms and determine what was causing the movement. Service on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route resumed later in the afternoon with vehicle weight restrictions limited to 32,000 pounds. After crews made overnight temporary repairs to the transfer span, we were able to restore full, two-lane loading without weight restrictions early this morning. WSF's Terminal Engineering department is working on a plan to make permanent repairs to the transfer span. I commend all our employees who moved quickly to assess and repair the problem and want to thank our customers on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route for their patience.

### **Crews repair Tokitae ramps this week**

On Wednesday, crews began installing temporary modifications to the Tokitae's upper car deck ramps to reduce the chance that vehicles with low clearances will scrape. This work will continue overnight, while the vessel is out of service, and is expected to be completed by Friday, Oct. 3. Crews are installing a plate below the upper ramp edge to simulate the insertion of a transition surface at the top of the ramp. This allows us to test this approach, without cutting into the structure. The ramps will be permanently modified during a scheduled maintenance period in December. Thank you for your patience over the past few months as we transition this new vessel into service.

### **Yakima main engine repairs**

Late Wednesday night, the turbo charger in the Yakima's main engine failed unexpectedly. While repairs were made, several morning sailings between Anacortes and the San Juan Islands were canceled. I am glad to report crews were able to repair the engine using an available spare part and the Yakima resumed sailing midday Thursday. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused our customers in the San Juan Islands.

### **Customer compliment: Professional and courteous**

*Coming back from a long day on San Juan Island, I absentmindedly left my cell phone on the ferry. [A crew member] had the good sense to find a number on it and called [my son]...everyone involved with this was very professional and courteous. It speaks well for the caliber of people you have. Thank you so much.*

Lynne Griffith  
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