



Washington State Ferries



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Oct. 17, 2014

## This week:

- Welcome Governor Inslee
- Plan ahead for smaller ferries on Edmonds/Kingston, Seattle/Bremerton and Seattle/Bainbridge Island routes
- Meeting with staff and partners
- Brass Bell Service Awards
- Vehicle reservations outreach continues
- WSF rescues kayaker
- Los Angeles Times features "A Minute Away" video of Seattle/Bainbridge Island ferry
- Customer compliment: Caring and professional

## Welcome Governor Inslee

Yesterday, we had the privilege of welcoming Governor Inslee to our headquarters office. He toured the building and was able to talk with staff in Operations, Terminal Engineering, Vessel Maintenance, Communications, Training, and Customer Service. He also had an opportunity to see the radar lab and to get a tour of the dispatch call center and the watch center.

## Plan ahead for smaller ferries on Edmonds/Kingston, Seattle/Bremerton and Seattle/Bainbridge Island routes

It's time for the *Wenatchee*'s mandatory annual safety inspection which means she will be out of service for three days beginning Sunday, Oct. 19 so the U.S. Coast Guard can ensure all systems are operating safely. During this time we will have four vessels out of service for maintenance and repairs so we need to move vessels around the system to ensure the highest possible level of service for every route. Walk-on passengers won't see much difference in service levels, however customers planning to drive onto the Edmonds/Kingston, Seattle/Bremerton or Seattle/Bainbridge ferry should plan for delays and reduced vehicle capacity. Here are the current vessel assignments as I write this message:

- Edmonds/Kingston: 124-car *Kitsap* and 188-car *Spokane* (64 fewer vehicles on half of scheduled sailings)
- Seattle/Bremerton: 90-car *Sealth*, 144-car *Hyak* (34 fewer vehicles on half of scheduled sailings)
- Seattle/Bainbridge Island: 202-vehicle *Puyallup* and 188-vehicle *Walla Walla* (14 fewer vehicles on half of scheduled sailings)

An additional vessel inspection is underway that could impact the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route. Subscribe to WSF's [travel alerts](#) to receive the latest information.

## Meeting with staff and partners

I am continuing to travel our system and meet with WSF employees and our partners. This week, I attended a Propeller Club luncheon and met with many maritime professionals. Today, I joined Secretary Peterson in a meeting with U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Richard Gromlich. I am learning more each day on the job about the great work that happens every day at WSF and how we can continue to improve our system.

## Brass Bell Service Awards

Congratulations to Capt. Tim Koivu and Capt. Christopher Beres for 40 years of service with Washington State Ferries. Port Capt. Jay Mooney presented Brass Bell Service Awards to Capt. Koivu (on the left) who serves the Edmonds/Kingston route, and Capt. Beres (on the right) who serves the Port Townsend/Coupeville route. Thank you both for your hard work and commitment.



### **Vehicle reservations outreach continues**

Vehicle reservations on the San Juan Islands route begin Jan. 5, 2015. Attend a WSF [community event](#) to sign up for an account and learn more about the [reservation system](#). Community events in the San Juan Islands continue this weekend. WSF staff will be at the Lopez Island Library tomorrow from 12:30-5:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **WSF rescues kayaker**

Thank you to Capt. Curt Larson, Chief Mate Chandler Thomas and the entire *Tokitae* crew and Mukilteo terminal staff for rescuing a kayaker that overturned just north of the Mukilteo terminal. Terminal staff spotted the kayaker and alerted the *Tokitae* crew. The crew immediately launched a rescue boat and transported the man to the beach. I want to recognize the entire team for completing this rescue as quickly and safely as possible.

### **Los Angeles Times features “A Minute Away” video of Seattle/Bainbridge Island ferry**

This [short video](#) from the LA Times captures why Washington State Ferries are so special. A nice reminder for all of us.

### **Customer Compliment: Caring and professional**

*I just wanted to write a quick thank you for [the] amazing caring and professionalism that we encountered last night. Our daughter had an extreme asthma/bronchial attack and we needed to get her to Seattle Children's Hospital ER. We were going to miss the ferry by 1 min...I called ahead to see if it could be held for her and not only did they, [but] they made sure that she didn't need any extra treatment or an ambulance. It was very clear that [WSF staff] had her best interest at heart. We assured them that she had her medicine with her, and that we were okay to get her there, but that the next ferry could be too late. The Captain gave us permission to board and they placed our car in a spot where we could get her off first. We were able to get her to the ER and into treatment that was desperately needed within 20 minutes of getting off of the boat. She is breathing much better [and] is now home resting. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you from the bottom of my heart!*

Lynne Griffith  
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within the email:

Travel alerts: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule/bulletin.aspx>

VRS Outreach Schedule: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/099D9F49-DE45-4E38-AAC9-DACBAEE0DAC3/101648/SJCommunityEvents\\_Fall2014\\_1008\\_small.pdf](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/099D9F49-DE45-4E38-AAC9-DACBAEE0DAC3/101648/SJCommunityEvents_Fall2014_1008_small.pdf)

Vehicle Reservations System: [www.takeaferry.com](http://www.takeaferry.com)

Los Angeles Times video: <http://www.latimes.com/travel/deals/la-trb-ferry-puget-sound-20141015-story.html>

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).

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