



Washington State Ferries



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Oct. 24, 2014

This week:

- Meet and greet with ferry district legislators
- Vessel moves: thanks for your patience
- *Puyallup* welcomes baby
- IBU tour
- Proposed changes to WSF's preferential loading rules
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Meet and greet with ferry district legislators

I met with ferry district legislators including Senator Rolfes, Representative Seaquist and Representative Smith this week as I continued my introduction to the ferry system. I really appreciated the candid conversations and idea-sharing. I found each legislator helpful and I would like to thank them for their time.

Vessel moves: thanks for your patience

I would like to thank customers for their patience with our recent boat moves, and the vehicle capacity downsizing experienced on some routes. Earlier this week, the *Wenatchee* passed her annual, mandatory U.S. Coast Guard inspection and is back on the Seattle/Bainbridge route. The *Walla Walla* returned to Kingston/Edmonds and the *Kitsap* temporarily moved to Mukilteo/Clinton to stand in for the *Kittitas* while she is undergoing maintenance at our Eagle Harbor facility.

In early November, we expect to restore the Bremerton/Seattle route to full service. Later in November, the Fautleroy/Vashon/Southworth route should upsize capacity.

We realize all of these boat moves can be challenging to track. We are working to continuously improve our communications on future service impacts. Please sign up for [route alerts](#) to get the most current information on changes to your route.

Puyallup welcomes baby

On Wednesday, the crew of the *Puyallup* helped welcome a baby born aboard the 5:20 a.m. sailing from Bainbridge Island. Many thanks to the helpful WSF crew and the emergency medical service workers.

IBU tour

On Wednesday, I toured the Southworth/Vashon/Fautleroy route aboard the *Evergreen State*, *Tillikum* and *Issaquah* with representatives of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU). I really enjoyed spending time with employees in the fleet, and I appreciated the thoughtful conversations and the ideas shared. I will be reviewing the ideas proposed by employees and ways to put some of them in motion at WSF.

Proposed changes to WSF's preferential loading rules

On Thursday, we held a public hearing at WSF's Seattle office to get feedback on proposed changes to the [preferential loading rules](#). We are updating the rules to streamline and clarify the Washington State Administrative code and reflect changes to the [vehicle reservations program](#) prior to its launch in the San Juan Islands next year.

Trick-or-treat at Colman Dock

As we have for many years, we are participating in the "trick-or-treat" of Seattle's waterfront businesses on Oct. 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Colman Dock, along with other waterfront businesses, will host thousands of parents and children who are expected to turn out for this annual event.

Customer Compliments

We received the following email from a participant at the vehicle reservations presentation at the Lopez Island library on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Thank you and all your colleagues for your presentation on Lopez today. I found it very helpful and was particularly impressed by the young woman who led the presentation - so clear, so organized and so patient with answering questions...The fellow who joined her ...was clear and helpful. We are very happy and excited about the reservation system. I think people who feel as we do are less likely to say anything so you only hear the fear and confusion. I know there will be bugs at first - I worked a long time ago as a computer programmer and nothing ever worked right on the first try - but clearly this has been well thought through. Thanks again for taking the time and making the effort to explain the system to us. BTW, the handouts are quite helpful as well.

WSF information desk received a call this week from a grateful passenger of the Mukilteo/Clinton route who lost her car keys. Below is a synopsis of the call.

On 10/17/14, on the 9:00 p.m. sailing from Mukilteo a female passenger lost her car key aboard the vessel. As she approached her parked car in Clinton, she suddenly realized she had no key! After speaking to the crew aboard the vessel, they began searching for her key. They found it. She said they were so sweet that she just wanted to call and say thank you to the crew! She was able start her car and get home safely. And a special thanks to the Clinton sellers who were also extremely helpful in calling Mukilteo to begin the search.

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within the email:

Route alerts: <https://secure1.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/account/index.cfm?type=Alerts>

Public hearing/proposed changes to preferential loading: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/policy/rules>

Vehicle Reservations System: www.takeaferry.com

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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