



September 5, 2008

This week:

- Organizational change
- WSDOT/WSP conference
- Steel Electric Class Ferries
- City of Edmonds meeting
- Congressman Oberstar briefing

Organizational change

This week I appointed Doug Russell permanently to the position of Chief Naval Architect (CNA). For the last six months, Doug was “acting” CNA. Doug came to the ferry system after twenty-five years of active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard. He will be responsible for overseeing the new vessels planned for the system.

I also learned this week that Ferries Director of Human Resources (HR) Patti Colaizzo has decided to leave the ferry system for an exciting career opportunity at the University of Washington. To ensure a seamless transition to new leadership, I have asked Kathleen Flynn-Mahaffey, a long-term ferry system HR manager, to take on the acting role of HR director pending review of the position.

WSDOT/WSP conference

I attended the annual conference between the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Washington State Patrol (WSP). The purpose of the conference is to increase coordination between our two organizations and to review highway and traffic issues. I led a session with WSP Captain Mark Thomas of the Vessel and Terminal Security program on a variety of ferry issues, ranging from security to communication.

Steel Electric Class Ferries

The proposal acceptance period for the sale of the four 80-year-old Steel Electric Class ferries ends today. We extended the period to Sept. 5 to accommodate requests from brokers and potential bidders. I will report back on the status next week.

City of Edmonds meeting

I met Thursday with City of Edmonds Mayor Haakenson and key staff to talk about the ferry financing studies and the draft long-range plan for the ferry system. We discussed the potential of a reservations system for the Edmonds/Kingston route. I greatly appreciated the Mayor’s time and contributions to the topics.

Congressman Oberstar briefing

Today I will participate with Secretary Hammond in a briefing with Congressman Jim Oberstar. He is a 17th term Congressman from Minnesota and serves as the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The meeting will include WSDOT officials and state legislators. The purpose is to provide an overview of WSDOT projects and discuss reauthorization issues.

Next week:

- Meeting with City of Seattle officials
- Meeting with Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council
- Meeting with Joint Transportation Committee Ferry Policy Group
- Meeting with WSP Chief John Batiste
- Participating in the Bremerton Waterfront Revitalization Conference

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

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