



Oct. 10, 2008

This week:

- Public meeting series wraps up next week
- Service restored after disruption due to vessel repairs
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Pierce County public meeting
- Suquamish tribal visit

Public meeting series wraps up next week

This week I visited the San Juan Islands and Coupeville on Whidbey Island for the fourth and fifth in our series of nine public meetings this fall about the draft long-range plan for the ferry system. You can download meeting materials at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358.htm. We'll wrap up the series next week with four public meetings:

- Monday, Oct. 13, Vashon Island, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., McMurray Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 9329 SW Cemetery Road, Vashon Island
- Tuesday, Oct. 14, Mukilteo/Clinton, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 4480 Chennault Beach Road, Mukilteo
- Wednesday, Oct. 15, Anacortes, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Fidalgo Center, 1701 22nd Street, Anacortes
- Thursday, Oct. 16, Southworth, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., John Sedgwick Junior High School, 8995 SE Sedgwick Road, Port Orchard

Service restored after disruption due to vessel repairs

As of this morning, the Seattle/Bremerton route is back to two-boat service after three days of one-boat service supplemented with passenger-only service. This temporary service reduction resulted from the *Walla Walla* being removed from service on Monday for emergency repairs. I understand our customers' frustration with the temporary service reduction; this decision was not made lightly, and we reviewed every available service option before deciding to reduce service to Bremerton. However, with no back-up vessels in the fleet, service reductions are inevitable when a vessel needs emergency repairs. Until we have new boats – something we are in the process of accomplishing – we will continue to be in this situation.

Puget Sound Regional Council

On Thursday, Oct. 9, WSDOT Ferries Division, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and the Joint Transportation Committee provided an update to the Puget Sound Regional Council on the ferry financing legislation work and the draft long-range plan. My part of the update focused on the funding gap that the ferry system is facing and the operational strategies we are proposing to help make the system financially sustainable.

Pierce County public meeting

Tonight I am attending a public meeting on Anderson Island to report on the ferry situation to the citizens of Pierce County. As we announced last month, the county is allowing us to keep their *Steilacoom II* ferry to serve our Port Townsend/Keystone route through August 2009. Pierce County's other ferry, the *Christine Anderson*, is currently undergoing its annual U.S. Coast Guard required drydocking until late October. During that time, WSF is loaning our *Rhododendron* ferry to serve Pierce County's route. I look forward to the opportunity to express WSF's appreciation to the residents of Anderson Island.

Suquamish tribal visit

Today Secretary Hammond and I are visiting Suquamish Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman and other tribe members to discuss a variety of WSDOT issues, including ferries issues primarily related to terminals. Earlier this year I sent a letter to all the tribes whose treaty rights may be affected by the ferry system's work and requested the opportunity to meet with them so that we can talk and coordinate on issues.

Next week:

- Final FAC public meetings for Sept./Oct.
- Meet with San Juan County Council
- Meet with Senator Patty Murray

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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