

November 14, 2008

This week:

- Meeting with Commander Admiral John Currier
- Bid opening for 64-auto ferries
- Steilacoom II extension/PO service planned for January
- No schedule changes for Edmonds/Kingston

Meeting with Commander Admiral John Currier

It was a pleasure meeting with Commander Admiral John Currier of the 13th U.S. Coast Guard district on Wednesday. The 13th district includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. We discussed general ferry issues, including readiness and a mass rescue exercise planned for 2009.

Bid opening for 64-auto ferries

On Thursday, we opened bids on a contract to construct up to two new 64-car vessels based on the *Island Home* design. We received one bid from Todd Pacific Shipyards. Todd's proposed bid price is \$124,450,559 for two vessels and \$65,487,328 for one vessel. The WSDOT engineer's estimate is \$95,943,865 for two vessels and \$49,452,894 for one vessel. The legislature has allocated \$84.5 million for these vessels. While I appreciate Todd Shipyards' responsiveness, I am disappointed that there is only one bid. We will identify all viable options before making a decision. WSDOT will evaluate the bid to ensure it meets contract requirements before making an award recommendation.

Steilacoom II extension/PO service planned for January

We learned on Wednesday that the U.S. Coast Guard has formally approved Pierce County's request for an extension on the drydock requirement which will allow the vessel to remain in service through the New Year's weekend. While the Steilacoom II is out of service, we will provide passenger-only service on the Port Townsend/Keystone route. We are still working out the details of the service, but will provide ample notification so customers can plan their travels. We are coordinating with transit on both sides of the route and working on a passenger-only schedule that meets as many transit connections as possible.

No schedule changes for Edmonds/Kingston

We are postponing making changes to the current Edmonds/Kingston sailing schedule. Additional time is needed to make sure the new schedule aligns with crew schedules, vessel fueling times and important connections for our customers. We appreciate the more than 80 comments received from our customers, which will help us in developing a schedule that works for as many people as possible.

Next week:

- JTC ferry policy group meeting
- FAC Executive Council
- Norwegian Public Roads Administration
- Propeller Club Luncheon

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

To unsubscribe, reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject of the e-mail.