



Jan. 23, 2009

This week:

- Public comment period extended on draft long-range plan through Jan. 26
- Meeting with Todd Pacific Shipyards
- 2009 Washington State Legislative session update
- Passenger-only service on Port Townsend/Keystone route to continue through mid-February

Public comment period extended on draft long-range plan through Jan. 26

Yesterday we announced an extended public comment period on the draft long-range plan through Monday, Jan. 26. Due to the overwhelming response from communities, we extended the comment period five days to ensure ample opportunity for the public to provide input on the two options in the draft plan. The tenth public hearing concluded in Fauntleroy on Wednesday night, and all of the public hearing transcripts, with the exception of Fauntleroy, are available online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358. The Fauntleroy hearing transcript will be posted online mid-next week. I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to attend a public hearing and/or provide comments. We are reviewing all of the comments and determining what modifications can be made to the options in the draft plan. You may continue to send comments through Jan. 26 by writing wsfplanning@wsdot.wa.gov or WSF, Attn. Joy Goldenberg, 2901 3rd Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98121.

A revised draft plan, along with all of the public comments received, will be provided to the Legislature on Saturday, Jan. 31. The plan is intended to provide options for consideration during this Legislative session and will not be finalized until after it is reviewed and decisions are made by lawmakers.

Meeting with Todd Pacific Shipyards

On Tuesday I attended a partnering and preconstruction meeting with Todd Pacific Shipyards. It was a great opportunity to talk with representatives from the shipyard as they begin work on the 64-auto ferry. A number of issues were discussed and resolved, so that construction of the vessel can proceed smoothly and within the required timeframe. In addition to the daily contact between the WSF project manager and the shipyard, I look forward to meeting with Todd Pacific Shipyards monthly to discuss progress. This is a very important construction project for the ferry system and I very much appreciate the partnering commitment of Todd Pacific Shipyards.

2009 Washington State Legislative session update

We are busy preparing for early February presentations to the House and Senate Transportation Committees on the revised long-range plan. I am also beginning a series of meetings with legislators of both committees to ensure open lines of communication.

Passenger-only service on Port Townsend/Keystone route to continue through mid-February

It was announced Thursday that we will continue to provide passenger-only service on the Port Townsend/Keystone route through mid-February, approximately two weeks longer than first expected. The auto ferry WSF has leased for regular service on that route, Pierce County's Steilacoom II, is in drydock for routine maintenance and its U.S. Coast Guard required annual inspection. Todd Pacific Shipyards repair crews recently discovered that additional work is needed on the vessel, which will extend its drydock period. Shipyard crews are working hard to return the ferry to service as soon as possible. It is currently anticipated that it will return to service on Sunday, Feb. 15. I appreciate the patience of ferry customers and the communities served by this route.

Next week:

- Meetings with legislators
- Meeting with the Mayor of Edmonds
- Revised long-range plan issued Jan. 31

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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