



Jan. 31, 2009

This week:

- Revised Draft Long-Range Plan Now Available
- Meetings with State Legislators
- Meeting with the Mayor of Edmonds

Revised Draft Long-Range Plan Now Available

Today we released the Revised Draft Long-Range Plan for the ferry system. The Revised Draft Plan updates a document released on Dec. 19, 2008, for public review and comment. We accepted comments on the draft plan through Monday, Jan. 26, 2009. During the 38-day comment period, we conducted ten public hearings in ferry-served communities to present the draft plan and to listen to public testimony. The public hearings were attended by over 1,300 individuals and hundreds in attendance gave public testimony. In addition, we received over 800 written comments. I want to thank everyone who took the time to attend a hearing or write us with their comments. We have reviewed all the comments and, where possible, made some modifications to the draft plan scenarios.

The Revised Draft Plan defines two very different visions for the state ferry system. Scenario A would make minor improvements to the system, but it would also require \$3.3 billion of additional funding over the next 22 years. Meanwhile, Scenario B would cut back some service and pare the system to its bare essentials, reducing the unfunded need but still requiring \$1.3 billion in new funding.

The Revised Draft Long-Range Plan begins the policy discussion, and presents for the communities, the Legislature and the Governor scenarios that seek to balance achievable service goals and funding requirements. We need to emerge from this legislative session with clear policy direction and a budget that sets a sustainable course for the future of the ferry system.

You may obtain a copy of the Revised Draft Long-Range Plan, as well as all of the public comments received between Dec. 19, 2008 and Jan. 26, 2009, online at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358>

Meetings with State Legislators

I continue to meet with members from the House and Senate Transportation Committees. I met with eleven legislators this week and discussed a range of issues, including the Revised Long-Range Plan.

Meeting with the Mayor of Edmonds

I met with Mayor Haakenson and his staff to discuss the future of the Edmonds Ferry Terminal Project in light of the ferry system's draft long-range plan. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Edmonds on a viable project.

Next Week

- Presentations to the House and Senate Transportation Committees
- Continue meetings with legislators

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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