



Feb. 13, 2009

This Week:

- Port Townsend/Keystone auto ferry service resumes
- Ferry Advisory Committee Executive Council meeting
- Government reform proposal and Ferry Advisory Committees
- Point Defiance/Tahlequah service disruption
- Meetings with State Legislators
- Ferries on normal schedule Presidents' Day

Port Townsend/Keystone auto ferry service resumes

Auto ferry service resumed on the Port Townsend/Keystone route yesterday as the Steilacoom II returned to service from its scheduled maintenance and inspection period.

Ferry Advisory Committee Executive Council meeting

I attended the meeting of the Ferry Advisory Committee Executive Council yesterday. We reviewed and discussed the Revised Draft Long-Range Plan and the Governor's government reform proposal. I reaffirmed my commitment to engaging with ferry-served communities and encouraged the members to continue to communicate their concerns to the Legislature.

Government reform proposal and Ferry Advisory Committees

On Monday, Feb. 9, Governor Gregoire announced a package of reforms to better serve the citizens of Washington State. The package includes a proposal to eliminate one-third of the 470 State boards, commissions, and task forces. One of the groups proposed for elimination is the Ferry Advisory Committees (FACs).

The FACs are one of 154 groups that the Governor has identified for elimination. If enacted, this does not mean that local input would be eliminated. We would engage with elected officials who represent ferry served communities and would continue to hold public meetings. We are always looking for ways to strengthen and improve communication with ferry-served communities. We have demonstrated our commitment to working with the communities and plan to continue developing these relationships into the future. We understand that the Governor is looking at ways to cut costs and streamline programs, and we continue with our own cost reduction efforts, which have amounted to nearly \$44 million for the 2007-2009 biennium.

Point Defiance/Tahlequah service disruption

On the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 9, service was cancelled on the Point Defiance/Tahlequah route for approximately five hours due to an engine failure on the *Hiyu*. I would like to thank our customers for their patience during this service disruption, and also thanks to WSF staff who worked to quickly identify and repair the problem, match up walk-on passengers with drivers diverting to Southworth, and notified customers, media, FAC and stakeholders of the situation.

Meetings with State Legislators

I had eight individual meetings with Senators and Representatives on Monday and Tuesday to discuss ferry system issues. I appreciate the time Legislators are taking to listen to our concerns and share their thoughts.

Ferries on normal schedule Presidents' Day

All routes will be on a normal Monday schedule for Presidents' Day (Feb. 16).

Next Week:

- Continue meetings with legislators
- Washington State Transportation Committee meeting
- Newspaper editorial board meetings

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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