



June 5, 2009

This Week:

- New employee orientation
- Recap of community meetings
- Update on passenger-only service transition to King County Ferry District
- Update on USCG crew endurance requirements
- Hood Canal Bridge opens

New employee orientation

On Monday morning I met with new deck employees who had just completed their training, to welcome them to WSF. I stressed the importance of the vital service we provide to the region and the value of customer service.

Recap of community meetings

I had the pleasure of visiting with communities in Bremerton, Whidbey Island (Clinton) and Vashon Island this week. We have been competing with the sunny weather for attendance, and I am very impressed with the folks who have taken the time to attend. We covered a range of topics, including the outcome of legislative session, finalizing the long-range plan for the ferry system, vehicle reservations pre-design report and tariff process and schedule. There have been a lot of great comments and questions and I have enjoyed meeting some people for the very first time. I will post a summary from each meeting in the next few weeks at

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries. Upcoming meetings include:

- Monday, June 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m., John Sedgwick Jr. High, 8995 SE Sedgwick Rd, Port Orchard
- Tuesday, June 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bainbridge Island Commons, 402 Brien Dr., Bainbridge Island
- Wednesday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Kingston Community Center, 11212 State Hwy 104, Kingston
- Thursday, June 11, Inter-island ferry departing Friday Harbor at 11:40 a.m., departing Orcas at 12:30 p.m., departing Shaw at 12:45 p.m., departing Lopez at 1:05 p.m.
- Thursday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fidalgo Senior Center, 1701 22nd St, Anacortes
- Monday, June 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pope Marine Building, 100 Madison St, Port Townsend

Update on passenger-only service transition to King County Ferry District

My staff is working closely with King County Ferry District on the transfer of the Seattle/Vashon passenger-only ferry route to the county. We anticipate a smooth transfer with King County operating this route starting Monday, Sept. 28. WSF was directed by the state Legislature in 2006 to discontinue passenger ferry service in favor of county-run ferry districts. WSF sold its high-speed passenger ferries *Chinook* and *Snohomish* in January with proceeds from the sale being used to help fund county-run passenger-ferry service.

Update on USCG crew endurance requirements

I know that some of you have been following the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) crew endurance program. I would like to provide some background and then a brief update as to where we are in the process.

Background: WSF management and the unions have worked with the USCG for seven years to develop and implement an acceptable crew endurance program to address crew fatigue, focused on training and education. WSF has been working for the last several months responding to

USCG directives to amend its crewing schedules to meet federal crew endurance guidelines that require no more than 12 hours work in 24 hours.

Today: WSF is working diligently with our bargaining units to reach agreements that are mutually beneficial. We have both offered concessions and both have approached the discussions in good faith. We continue to remain hopeful that we can achieve resolution that will benefit all stakeholders. This issue must be resolved in the very near future, so we may incorporate any changes into the fall sailing schedule.

Hood Canal Bridge opens

With the opening of the Hood Canal Bridge, I would like to say thank you to ferry communities and customers affected by the closure. We congratulate all WSDOT staff who worked so hard on this project and are pleased that WSF was able to provide ferry service and customer service support during the closure.

Next Week:

- Community meetings: Port Orchard/Southworth (June 8), Bainbridge Island (June 9), Kingston (June 10), San Juan Islands (June 11) and Anacortes (June 11)
- Annual Staff Masters Meeting

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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