



July 10, 2009

This Week

- Looking ahead
- 64-Car Ferry Progress
- Meeting with Suquamish Council
- U.S. Sen. Murray and Rep. Larsen Press Event
- Bremerton Tunnel Opening Event
- FAC Executive Council

Looking ahead

You may recall that last year I laid out four priorities for our work at the ferry system:

- Build new vessels
- Preserve our existing fleet
- Complete the long-range plan
- Connect better with our customers and ferry-served communities

While we still have a long way to go, I'm pleased that we made progress last year on each of these goals.

As we enter the new biennium, I think it would be useful to prioritize our goals moving forward. Here are the WSF priorities for the coming biennium:

Obtain a sustainable funding source

Based on the recently completed long-range plan, we have a \$3.3 billion funding gap over a 22-year planning horizon. We must work cooperatively with the Governor, Legislature, and other transportation stakeholders to achieve this vital goal.

Build 64-car ferries

The first of three 64-car ferries is currently under construction. We're working with our shipyard partners to build these vessels on time and within budget.

Complete a pre-design study of a vehicle reservations system

The Legislature has asked us to conduct a comprehensive pre-design study for a vehicle reservation system and to look at how that system might be implemented on one pilot route (Edmonds/Kingston). We will provide a report on this study to the 2010 Legislature.

Fulfill budget provisos

The 2009-2011 budget includes 17 budget provisos and special work assignments for us to complete over the next two years. We must ensure that these assignments are thoroughly considered and completed on time.

Increase ridership

We have experienced a decline in ridership since fares were raised as a result of the loss of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax in 1999. The Legislature recognizes this decline and has authorized funding for a marketing plan to be presented to the Legislature for approval in the 2010 session. As part of this work, we will gain a better understanding of our customers and develop a program to expand our customer base.

64-Car Ferry Progress

On Wednesday, July 8, I joined our 64-car ferry project team for a visit to Todd Pacific Shipyards to witness crews placing the first section of the new ferry's keel into the jig (device that holds the hull during construction). For more information and photos of the progress on the new ferry, visit

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries.

Meeting with Suquamish Council

On June 30, I met with the Suquamish Tribal Council to provide a post legislative session update on activities and projects. I enjoyed our discussion and look forward to future meetings.

U.S. Sen. Murray and Rep. Larsen Press Event

I participated in a press conference with U.S. Sen. Patty Murray and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen on July 1 at Colman Dock regarding the proposed U.S. Ferry Systems Investment Act of 2009. I thoroughly enjoyed hosting the event at our facility and I am hopeful that this legislation passes, as it will greatly benefit WSF by investing \$200 million into the nation's ferry systems.

Bremerton Tunnel Opening Event

I enjoyed hosting U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Governor Gregoire, Congressman Norm Dicks, Senator Chris Marr, Representative Judy Clibborn and WSDOT Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond aboard the 1,200-passenger / 124-car Kitsap ferry on Monday, July 6. This vessel tour was part of the State Route 304 Bremerton Tunnel opening and ribbon cutting event taking place that evening. Approximately 2,000 Bremerton residents participated in the festivities. The new tunnel improves safety for pedestrians and reduces congestion in Bremerton's waterfront area.

FAC Executive Council

On Thursday, I attended the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) Executive Council meeting. We discussed WSF's final long-range plan, draft tariff proposal, and the upcoming vehicle reservations pre-design work.

Next Week:

- Transportation Commission Meeting
- Edmonds/Kingston Partnership Group
- Swinomish Chairman Meeting
- Lummi Nation Chairman Meeting

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.