



October 16, 2009

This Week

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- Edmonds/Kingston Partnership
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Contract awarded for 64-car ferries

We announced this week that the ferry system awarded a contract to Todd Pacific Shipyards to build two additional 64-car ferries. Todd Shipyards submitted a \$114 million bid on Thursday, October 8 to build two more 64-car ferries. With the contract award, Todd will begin constructing the second and third ferries in this new class of vessels. WSF awarded a contract to Todd to construct the first 64-car ferry in December 2008. That vessel is under construction and scheduled to go into service on the Port Townsend/Keystone route in late-summer 2010.

Music at Colman Dock

As part of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau advertising campaign, Hawaiian music will play at Colman Dock on Monday, October 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. I hope our Bremerton and Bainbridge riders enjoy the sounds of the islands as you make your way through the terminal.

Edmonds/Kingston Partnership

We held our fifth meeting of the Partnership this Wednesday to continue our discussions about the potential for vehicle reservations on the Edmonds/Kingston route as part of our legislated pre-design study. We have three additional meetings planned for this group. For more information visit

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/vehiclereservations

Ferry ridership stats

We reported for the first time in August on ferry statistics for July 2009. I would like to keep doing so on a regular basis. For the month of August 2009:

- Total riders: 2,519,366 (up 0.1 percent from 2008)
- Vehicles: 1,022,459 (up 1.8 percent from 2008)
- Passengers: 1,496,907 (down 1.1 percent from 2008)

For the month of September 2009, please note that there were service disruptions impacting the Seattle/Bremerton, Seattle/Bainbridge and Edmonds/Kingston routes:

- Total riders: 1,975,738 (down 0.7 percent from 2008)
- Vehicles: 873,152 (down 1.0 percent from 2008)
- Passengers: 1,102,586 (down 0.5 percent from 2008)

For fiscal year 2009 to date (July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009):

- Total riders: 7,006,656 (up 0.6 percent from 2008)
- Vehicles: 2,904,724 (up 1.1 percent from 2008)
- Passengers: 4,101,932 (up 0.2 percent from 2008)

Customer Compliment

I received an e-mail this week from a Lopez Island resident and ferry customer applauding the efforts of WSF employees. I appreciate the efforts of our crew, specifically Marjie Nelson and Ryan Bennett, for providing extraordinary service.

Yesterday I left our "day-timer" on the mid-morning inter-island ferry from Lopez to Friday Harbor. This book maps out our lives throughout 2009 so losing it was bad news. At about 4 pm that afternoon, after searching all the places in Friday Harbor where we had visited, we asked Ryan Bennett on duty late afternoon at the Friday Harbor terminal what, if anything, we could do to get it back. Without hesitation he picked up his radio and called "The Evergreen" and told them our difficulty, what the book looked like and which ferry trip we were on when we lost it. He asked The Evergreen folks to drop it off the next time the inter-island got to Lopez if they found it... We told him we would alert Marjie Nelson at the Lopez ferry when we arrived at Lopez. We waited for a quiet moment between ferries and explained our problem. She smiled and said she already knew--she'd had her radio on. We left our phone number and she said she'd call one way or another after the inter-island departed on its next round. Well at about 6:45 pm she called--"Mrs Ellis, I've got it!" We were saved.

Reuniting us with our day timer within just three hours required the efforts of several WSF people; members of the Evergreen's crew and ferry agents Marjie Nelson and Ryan Bennett. They went the extra mile and we are very grateful. Thank you guys!

Next Week:

- Monthly meeting with U.S. Coast Guard
- Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) presentation
- WSTC subcommittee meeting
- WSF managers 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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