



Jan. 8, 2010

This Week

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Sealth Temporarily Out of Service

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, the Sealth was taken out of service due to a damaged engine output shaft. This incident necessitated moving customers to a central assembly station. The vessel will remain out of service for approximately one to two weeks for repairs. The Hiyu is replacing the Evergreen State as the San Juan Islands inter-island ferry and the Evergreen State is taking the place of the Sealth. I apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate the patience of our San Juan Island customers while we work to resolve this issue. I also want to mention that we received compliments from our customers about how well our employees handled the situation aboard the Sealth and I would like to applaud the efforts of Captain Kirk Mikkelsen, his deck crew and the engine room crew.

Port Townsend/Keystone Weekend Closure Reminder

The Port Townsend/Keystone route will be closed Jan. 9-10 to facilitate a required annual inspection on the Steilacoom II. Customers are advised to use the Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinon ferries as alternate routes between the Olympic Peninsula and Whidbey Island. WSF will offer ride vouchers for Port Townsend/Keystone Vehicle Multi-ride Ticket customers during this planned closure. I appreciate the patience of our customers as we facilitate this inspection. To learn more visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2010/01/Multi-ride_010510.htm.

Joint Transportation Committee Presentation

On Tuesday, I presented in front of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) on the Draft Vehicle Reservations Pre-design Study. I am grateful for the opportunity to present on the value of vehicle reservations to customers, communities and the ferry system, and I appreciated the comments and questions from members. The final study will be available on Monday, Jan. 11. You can read the draft report and learn more at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/vehiclereservations.htm.

Edmonds City Council Briefing

I was also invited to present in front of the Edmonds City Council this week on the Draft Study. This is my second update to the Council on vehicle reservations as the Edmonds/Kingston route was pivotal to the pre-design study given its cross section of vehicle users including commuter, commercial and recreational. Customers and community members from both Edmonds and Kingston participated in a partnership group to help inform the study process. More information can be found at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/vehiclereservations.htm.

Washington State Transportation Commission Survey

The Commission is establishing the Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (F.R.O.G) to engage with ferry riders on an ongoing basis. Participants of the F.R.O.G. will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns on key ferry system topics. Starting on Jan. 12, there will be survey crews on board the ferries throughout the system and will be signing up riders to join the F.R.O.G. To learn more and join the F.R.O.G, visit www.ferryridersopiniongroup.com. I want to thank our riders in advance for participating and I look forward to viewing the results of the survey.

Customer Compliment

I received this compliment from a passenger on the Seattle/Bainbridge run a couple months back. I have not had the opportunity to share it yet, and would like to applaud the extraordinary efforts of WSF Colman Dock Janitor Sau Moimoi.

[My] husband had suffered some strokes. He has a hard time walking. Sau offered to help [him] on the boat, [and] went above the call of duty... While this was happening Sau did not get off the boat in time and it left for Bainbridge. On the Bainbridge side there was no electric wheelchair and Sau pushed [my husband] up the long ramp in the regular chair. [We] wanted to express [our] deepest gratitude.

Next Week:

- Legislative session begins on Jan. 11.
- Presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 14.

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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