



Jan. 29, 2010

This Week

- Presentations to the Senate Transportation Committee
- Meeting with Rep. Liias
- 64-car Chetzemoka Construction Update
- 144-Car Ferries Update

Presentations to the Senate Transportation Committee

On Monday I presented to the Senate Transportation Committee on our Vehicle Reservations Predesign Study and our Capital Staffing Plan. Both of these presentations were in response to 2009 legislative provisos. We provided information on the staffing levels in our Terminal Engineering and Vessel Departments and how we reduced staff and costs wherever possible while still maintaining the ability to deliver capital projects. We also talked about our work throughout last year studying the technology and needed capabilities for a potential new vehicle reservations system. We anticipate receiving further direction about vehicle reservations by the end of the 2010 legislative session.

Meeting with Rep. Liias

Rep. Liias requested a meeting with WSF and some members of the Mukilteo City Council to discuss traffic issues near the Mukilteo terminal. We have been working collaboratively with the City to determine the best solution for the complex traffic challenges at this location. Use of the ferry holding lanes also came up during this conversation. For the winter schedule, WSF does not have funds to staff all of the vehicle holding lanes at the terminal, which on busy afternoons or weekends results in traffic queuing up for the ferry on SR 525. I have received e-mails from some customers asking me to address this issue. We are looking internally to see if staff can be relocated temporarily, and Rep. Liias is working with us on this issue.

64-car Chetzemoka Construction Update

On Jan. 15 the 64-car Chetzemoka was rolled out of the construction building where shipyard crews have been building the ferry's hull since last June. The following morning the Chetzemoka was rolled into drydock. On Jan. 18, a 105-ton section of the passenger deck arrived via barge from Nichols Brothers Boat Builders on Whidbey Island and was lifted into place atop the hull. The pilothouses also arrived from Nichols Brothers and were lifted onto the hull. During the good weather this week, crews have begun painting the vessel. You can view photos of the recent construction activities at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157621006556309/.

144-Car Ferries Update

WSF has signed an agreement with Todd Pacific Shipyards to commence work on the final construction design necessary to build 144-car ferries. This agreement is part of the contract WSF awarded Todd in December 2007 to design and build one or two 144-car ferries. Continuing this design work will put WSF in a better position to start building these larger ferries when construction funding becomes available. This is part of the vessel replacement plan in WSF's 2009-2030 Long-Range Plan (available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358.htm).

Next Week:

- Monthly progress meeting with Todd Pacific Shipyards
- Convene internal WSF on-time performance workgroup
- Senate Transportation Committee testimony
- Meeting with Federal Transit Administration Deputy Administrator

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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