



May 9, 2008

During the month of May, my focus is on the ferry financing legislated work. I participated in many meetings this week as we prepare to share our progress on operational and pricing strategies with our partners, legislators, and public. I will be talking to the Ferry Advisory Committee chairs later this month to plan for the next series of public meetings scheduled for late June. I've also been busy this week with the following:

- Port Townsend/Keystone reservations, expiration date on full-fare single-ride tickets extended, 30 minute lock-out removed
- Evaluation of the Christine Anderson
- Service Award Luncheon
- Bicycle Alliance of Washington
- Visit to Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility

Port Townsend/Keystone reservations, expiration date on full-fare single-ride tickets extended, 30 minute lock-out removed

I am excited to announce three changes to the ferry system to better serve customers this summer and beyond.

- A pilot reservations system will be implemented on the Port Townsend/Keystone route starting Monday, May 19 to address the route's unique needs for summer 2008.
- Expiration dates on full-fare, single-ride tickets will be extended from seven to 90 days from date of purchase starting Monday, May 12 on the Port Townsend/Keystone route and Sunday, June 22 on all other routes.
- The 30-minute lock-out on multi-ride vehicle tickets will be removed as of Thursday, June 5 so customers can share tickets.

These adjustments will provide customers more travel options in time for the busy summer season and will address some of the top concerns of ferry customers. For more information visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/index.cfm>

Evaluation of the *Christine Anderson* ferry

Chief Engineer John Bailey and Staff Master Captain Mark Haupt, both experienced on the Port Townsend / Keystone route, spent two days aboard Pierce County's vessel *Christine Anderson* to determine what work needs to be done to prepare it for service on the Port Townsend/Keystone route. It is clear from preliminary evaluations that significant work needs to be done, including an upgrade of the propulsion system so the vessel can navigate the challenging waters and narrow Keystone Harbor. The ferry system is leasing the *Christine Anderson* starting September 2008 for use on the Port Townsend/Keystone route until the first Island Home-design ferry is built.

Service Award Luncheon

This week is public service recognition week and I was privileged to attend the ferry system's Employee Service Awards Luncheon to honor the 52 employees who have provided 30 years or more of service to the organization. One person who stood out was Paul Papas who has been with the ferry system for 45 years. Paul works as part of the shore gang at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility.

Bicycle Alliance of Washington

I met with a representative from the Bicycle Alliance of Washington. I learned more about issues facing the bicycle users of the ferry system. We talked about ways to accommodate bicycles in

the design of the new ferries, ideas for retrofitting existing ferries to better accommodate bicycles given our limited space on the car deck, and the Alliance's desire for a bicycle-only gate at Colman Dock. I look forward to continuing this dialogue with these important users of our system.

Visit to Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility

I look forward to visiting the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility this afternoon. I will have an opportunity to walk through some of the planned renovations and learn more about the different shops that perform work on our vessels and terminals.

Coming Up Next Week

- I will be meeting with the Local Agency Review Team, comprised of staff representatives from local and regional governments, as part of the ferry financing legislative work.
- Participating in internal meetings on new vessel procurement and developing a plan by June 1 for the disposal of the four Steel Electric vessels.

My weekly updates are now available online. You can read current and past updates at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/>.