



April 11, 2008

In this issue:

- Ferry Advisory Committee Public Meeting summaries
- Biodiesel update
- Meeting with advertising representatives
- Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Discussion of 50-car ferry bid with Todd Shipyard
- TVW "Inside Olympia" interview
- Bainbridge Island "Oatmeal Breakfast Club"
- My calendar next week

Ferry Advisory Committee Public Meeting summaries

Last week I reported that we had completed our spring round of FAC public meetings. I've had the chance to sit down with staff and go over the summaries, identifying action items that we can respond to right away. The summaries – including the action items and responses – will be available for you to read on our Web site as of Monday, April 14:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358.htm>

I encourage you to take a look at the summaries – there is a lot of valuable feedback and there were many diverse issues that were brought up.

We'll have even more information to share with the ferry-served communities when we have our next round of FAC public meetings in June. The Web site above is a good one to bookmark, because we post new information about the ferry financing legislation work there as it develops.

Biodiesel update

You may remember that we launched our biodiesel pilot test last month using a 5 percent blend of soy on the *Issaquah*. No problems were reported after running 30 days on that blend, so we moved the *Issaquah* from a 5 percent blend to a 10 percent blend of soy on Saturday, April 5. We also began burning a 5 percent blend of canola on the *Tillikum* on Monday, April 7. Biodiesel reduces toxic pollutants and greenhouse-gas emissions. Find out more at

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Environment/biodiesel.

Meeting with advertising representatives

On Monday, April 7, I joined our operations department in a meeting with our advertising company, Trans4Media. I was introduced to the President, CEO and Director of Sales for Trans4Media, and we had a brainstorming session on how we might be able to use our advertising program to improve services for customers.

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

On Tuesday, April 8, I joined staff to meet with the ferry committee chaired by Rep. Christine Rolfes. We overviewed the outcome of the March/April FAC public meetings and the ferry financing work on LOS standards and ridership forecasts. We updated the JTC on the re-bid process on the new 50-car ferry for Port Townsend/Keystone.

Discussion of 50-car ferry bid with Todd Shipyard

Also on Tuesday, I joined staff to meet with Todd Shipyard to continue our discussions of their bid for the new 50-car ferry. Theirs was the sole bid we received, and it came in \$9 million over our estimate. We rejected the bid, but we're working closely with Todd to determine the reasons for the difference. These discussions will inform our re-packaging of the advertisement for this spring.

TVW "Inside Olympia" interview

On Wednesday, April 9, I sat down for an interview with David Ammons, host of the weekly interview show "Inside Olympia" on TVW. They're scheduled to show the interview several times this weekend on TVW – check their listings for times:

<http://www.tvw.org/tvguide/thisweek.htm>

Bainbridge Island "Oatmeal Breakfast Club"

On Thursday, April 10, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Bainbridge Island "Oatmeal Breakfast Club." This is a significant but informal group of mostly retired professionals. I value experiences like this, as one of my top priorities is getting out and meeting people in the communities.

My calendar next week:

- Meeting with Port Townsend Mayor and Secretary Hammond in Port Townsend – Monday, April 14
- Meeting with the Peninsula Regional Transportation Organization in Shelton – Friday, April 18