

# Washington State Ferries

JANUARY 2019

## System facts

- Created June 1, 1951
- Largest ferry system in the United States
- Nearly 25 million riders in 2018
- Second largest ferry system in the world for number of vehicles carried (nearly 11 million per year)
- Fleet of 23 auto-passenger ferries
- Operates 20 terminals on 10 routes
- Approximately 1,800 employees
- 16 unions and 13 collective bargaining agreements

## Key functions

### Transit agency

- Third largest transit system in Washington (#1 King County Metro, #2 Sound Transit)

### Marine highway

- Part of state highway network, serving eight counties and British Columbia, Canada

### Link in region's multimodal connections

- Priority loading for freight, bicycles, vanpools and carpools
- Vehicle reservations on three routes

### Mover of freight and goods

- WSF vessels are specially constructed to accommodate commercial vehicles

### Tourism, economic development

- Major tourist attraction and icon of Washington state
- Critical link between more affordable housing on the west side of Puget Sound and key employment centers on the east side

### Safe, secure travel

- WSF works with the Washington State Patrol and U.S. Coast Guard to implement security measures to ensure the safety and security of passengers
- As a port of entry and border crossing, WSF works with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure the security of the U.S. border

## Challenges

### Operations and Maintenance

- Aging fleet: all but 13 vessels are over 30 years old
- Boats are in service 20+ hours a day, so it is difficult to find time for adequate maintenance
- Only one relief boat, restricting system capacity when vessels breakdown
- Drydock capacity in Puget Sound is limited and difficult to adjust for emergency repairs

### Workforce development

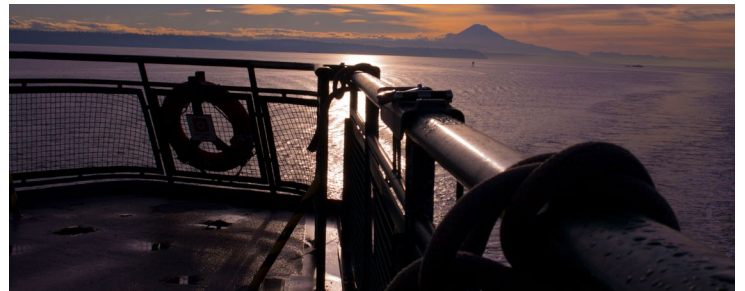
- Succession planning remains a critical priority
- Approximately half of our vessel employees are 55 years old or older and may qualify for retirement in the next five to 10 years

## Future planning

- Two new multimodal terminals under construction
- Fourth Olympic Class vessel entered service in 2018

### 2040 Long range plan

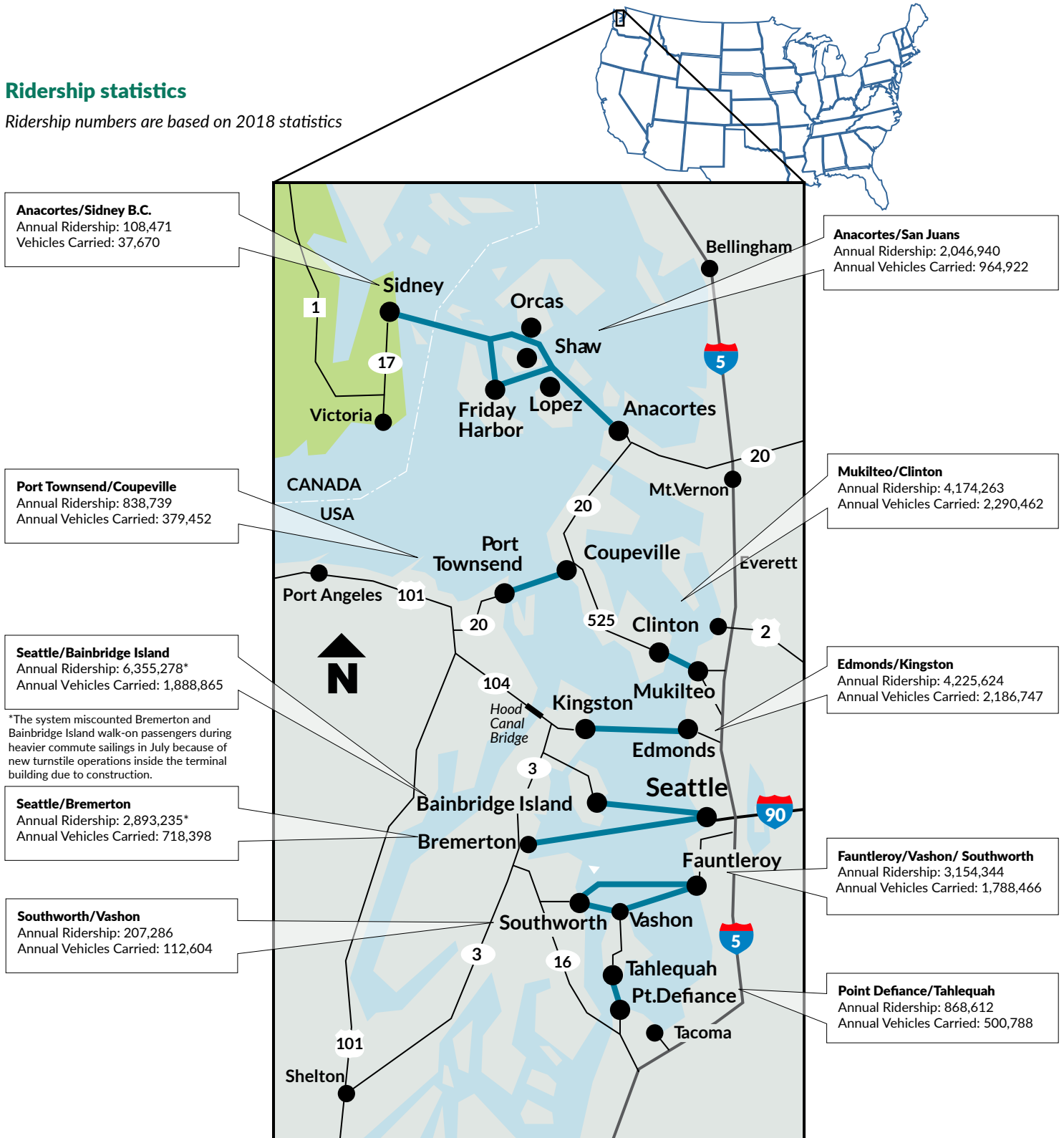
- Recently completed a Long Range Plan that plans for the future of the ferry system through 2040



# WSDOT Ferries Division – Nation’s Largest Ferry System

## Ridership statistics

Ridership numbers are based on 2018 statistics



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