



Nov. 18, 2011

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Community meetings recap

Our latest round of community meetings kicked off this week. On Monday, the Bremerton Rotary opened their doors to WSF for a joint meeting. I met with customers and community members of the triangle route on Vashon Island on Tuesday night. I really appreciate everyone who took the time to attend and the opportunity to have a discussion about the ferry system. Next meetings are Whidbey Island (Nov. 29) and San Juan Islands (Dec. 1). The full community meeting schedule and materials are posted at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/CommuterUpdates/pub_meetings.

Cascadia Legislative Transportation Institute

Today I will present to the Cascadia Legislative Transportation Institute on the ferry system. My presentation will cover topics such as finance, new vessels, and challenges. There will also be presentations from Deputy Commissioner Captain Mike Neussl of Alaska Marine Highway and Executive Vice President Mike Corrigan of B.C. Ferries. The segment will be moderated by Victoria Clipper CEO Darrell Bryan. To view my presentation, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/.

Commission survey on WSF

Ferry riders are being asked for their ideas in a survey about how WSF could change customer's methods of paying fares to better integrate the system with highways and transit, while improving the customer experience. The Washington State Transportation Commission's survey will be completed by Nov. 20. The commission will report to the Legislature the survey results, providing data about the opinions and preferences among customers who interact with the ferry system in different ways (frequent vs. infrequent riders, walk-on vs. driver, etc.) across all WSF routes. For more information on the survey or the Washington State Transportation Commission, please visit www.wstc.wa.gov.

Colman dock sidewalk reopens next week

The pedestrian sidewalk on the west side of Alaskan Way between Columbia and Yesler streets will reopen mid next week. It has been closed since Nov. 7 for electrical work. For construction photos and more information on the planned improvements, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr519/seattleelectrical.

Detour this weekend at Edmonds terminal

Main Street near the Edmonds Terminal will be closed from 6 p.m. tonight until 6 p.m. Saturday while Burlington Northern repairs railroad tracks. During this closure, ferry traffic will be rerouted from the upper holding lanes, using Dayton and Railroad avenues. Vehicles more than 50 feet long cannot load or offload during the Main Street closure. Larger vehicles should use the Seattle/Bainbridge route during this time. Customers can expect delays. Pedestrians should look for special access during this closure.

Detour map available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E6C1E07A-51C0-4877-B330-9BC2662DB39B/0/EdmondsFerryMap.jpg.

202-car Puyallup dry-dock

On Sunday, the 202-car Puyallup will be towed from Anacortes to a shipyard in Vancouver, B.C, where it will be dry-docked for approximately five days. The dry-docking is necessary so the hull of the Puyallup may be inspected per recertification requirements by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Puyallup is part of WSF's largest class of vessels, the Jumbo Mark II Class. The only shipyard in Puget Sound able to dry-dock this size vessel is unavailable and if WSF were to wait, the Puyallup would be out of service starting next week. To minimize customer impacts, WSF is choosing to dry-dock the vessel in B.C. While in Canada, the Puyallup will be accompanied by limited staff to oversee maintenance. You can see our vessel maintenance schedule online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/service.

Holidays are around the corner – gear up!

In honor of our 60 years of service, customers can purchase a memento of the ferry system. There are many items to choose from, and the proceeds help benefit our marine highways. WSF and its advertising and marketing company Trans4media launched www.ferrygear.com in October, where official WSF merchandise is for sale, including a Limited Edition Rub with Love® from famed Seattle restaurateur Tom Douglas. There are also t-shirts, mugs, stainless steel water bottles, baseball caps, and lapel pins available. The ferry merchandise is also for sale in the galleys on the vessels, Colman Dock News in Seattle, and the Cheesecake Café at the Anacortes terminal. I will bring samples of merchandise with me to the upcoming community meetings. Get your gift shopping done early this year at www.ferrygear.com.

Sharing your ferry tales

In September, we asked you to send in your “ferry tales” – experiences and memories you have of riding Washington state ferries over our 60-year history. We will continue to share some of our favorites over the next few months. Read about a snowy San Juans cruise on our blog at <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com>. We're still taking submissions; more information is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2011/09/Tales_092311.htm.

Next Week:

- Happy Thanksgiving!
- Whidbey Island (Nov. 29) and San Juan Islands (Dec. 1) community meetings
- Next weekly on Friday, Dec. 2.

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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