



April 1, 2011

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New tool highlights the best time to catch a ferry

I am really excited about the addition of a new tool to the WSF website, which highlights the best times to catch a ferry. This week with the start of the spring sailing schedule, we added color-coded schedules to the website that pinpoint the least and most congested sailing times for drive-on passengers. Our customers have told us that one of the most important things we can do for them is to provide better information to use when planning their travels. The schedules were created based on ridership data from 2010. For more behind-the-scenes information, visit <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/>. Currently, the tool is available for all routes except the San Juan Islands, Tahlequah and Vashon Island. WSF expects to have this tool available for all routes by this summer. The color-coded schedules are available on the right side of each route schedule page beneath a tab titled Best Travel Times. Sailing schedules are available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule.

Good news for customers of Mukilteo/Clinton

I am thrilled to report that a third weekend closure of the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal April 1-3 will not be necessary, as originally planned, because major preservation work was completed ahead of schedule on Sunday. Additional preservation work will continue for the next month during the evenings, but will not disrupt service. I want to thank our customers for their patience and flexibility during the temporary closures, and applaud the efforts of WSF staff for working hard to make this transition seamless for travelers. The work completed was vital to ensure the continued safe operation of the terminal. For photos of the work that was performed last weekend, visit www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626164106479/

Reopening of Sidney, B.C. ferry terminal

On Sunday, I was pleased to join customers and community members, including Anacortes Mayor Dean Maxwell and San Juan County Councilmember Howie Rosenfeld, on the inaugural sailing aboard the Elwha from Anacortes to Sidney, B.C. for the reopening of the Sidney terminal. On our arrival, we were greeted by Sidney Mayor Larry Cross and residents of the town. WSF serves the Sidney, B.C. ferry terminal with the spring, summer, and fall sailing schedules. Vehicle reservations for this route are strongly encouraged; please call 1-888-808-7977.

New web advertiser

Today, we launched a new web advertiser. Cadillac will be advertising on the Web through the end of June. As you may recall, WSF began a pilot project in January to advertise on our schedule (www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule) and VesselWatch (www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/vesselwatch) Web pages. We welcome your feedback on this pilot project. For more information on advertising at WSF, please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Planning/marketing.

WSF employees demonstrate they are part of the solution

I am pleased to announce that the five unions – Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU), Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P), Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), metal trades, and the Marine Employees' Beneficial Association (MEBA) - that formed a coalition in February have voted to ratify the agreements with WSF. In addition, Ferry Agents, Supervisors, and Project Administrators Association (FASPAA)

has also voted to ratify an agreement with WSF. I am very appreciative of our employees' efforts and these actions have made it clear that they want to be part of the solution to achieve a financially sustainable ferry system.

Looking good, Chelan

You may not recognize the Chelan when it returns to the Anacortes/Sidney B.C. route late next week after receiving a much needed new coat of paint on its vehicle deck at Dakota Creek Industries in Anacortes. This was the second phase of an overall topside paint job on the Chelan. Todd Pacific Shipyards painted the vessel's exterior last winter. We scheduled this work in phases to minimize service disruptions. We recognize that there are other ferries in the system in need of paint and we are making it a priority. For before and after photos of the Chelan, visit www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157623501904052.

Feedback needed: Edmonds/Kingston Saturday sailing option

In response to feedback received last summer, we are seeking comments on an alternative Saturday sailing schedule that would alleviate mid-evening overloads by adding a sailing earlier and eliminating the last run of the evening. The option is available for review at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Service/ScheduleProposals. Please send your comments to wsfplanning@wsdot.wa.gov by Friday, April 8.

Anacortes ferry terminal overhead loading preservation

Since mid-February crews have been preparing the overhead loading (OHL) structure at Anacortes for repainting, including removing siding and installing scaffolding. Crews began blasting the existing paint coating this week, and painting is scheduled to begin next week and continue into May, depending on weather. While the OHL structure is being painted, it will be closed and walk-on passengers will need to load and offload via the ferry vehicle deck. The OHL will be open to passengers during busy weekend travel times, Friday through Sunday. For more information (including photos) visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/anacortesoverhead.

Colman dock wingwall repairs

Beginning next week, you will see preservation work on the wingwalls at all three slips at Colman dock. The wingwalls make up the berthing structure that keeps the ferry in place while at the dock. The work will take approximately two weeks and includes routine maintenance and repair of broken timbers. No service impacts are anticipated.

Edmonds ferry terminal trestle paving

Crews will be repaving the Edmonds ferry terminal trestle starting next late week for approximately 2-3 weeks depending on weather. The entire area on the dock will receive new asphalt. Two lanes will remain open to loading and unloading vehicle traffic. No service disruptions are anticipated.

Next Week:

- Monthly new vessel program meeting
- Three weeks remaining in legislative session

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

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