June 10, 2011

This Week:

- Salish sea trials continue
- State ferries celebrate 60 years of crew safety
- Plan ahead: summer schedule “best travel times” data available
- Olympia Rotary Club briefing
- Bremerton, Anacortes and San Juan Islands community meetings
- Governor bill signing
- Centennial Accord meeting

Salish sea trials continue
Sea trials of WSF’s newest ferry, the 64-car Salish, continued this week in the south sound, including dock fits at Point Defiance/Tahlequah. Crews are getting increasingly more comfortable operating the vessel. The Salish is moving to Port Townsend on Sunday night and will tie up in the second slip. Sea trials will continue on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route next week. In July, the Salish will begin service on the route, joining her sister ship Chetzemoka, which will restore two-boat service. For more information on the Kwa-di Tabil 64-car vessel class, visit [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/64carferries/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/64carferries/).

State ferries celebrate 60 years of crew safety
WSF is launching a program to recognize the hard work and care that goes into keeping passengers and employees safe each day. Teams of ferry workers who achieve the goal of having no injuries in a three-month period will fly a green and white WSF safety pennant at their worksite.

This month also marks the 60th anniversary of the ferry system and commemorates decades of proud and distinguished service. Operating the largest ferry system in the United States for six decades with an unparalleled safety record is no small feat. The system takes more than 22 million passengers on more than 150,000 sailings per year. Our employees do a consistently stellar job of not only providing safe service to our customers but also staying safe themselves. In the first quarter of 2011, eight out of 21 vessels and 13 out of 17 land facilities (terminals, warehouse and maintenance facility) will receive the quarterly safety pennant honor.

Plan ahead: summer schedule “best travel times” data available
This week we added “best travel times” data to the website for the summer schedule. As you may recall, we launched this tool in April for the spring schedule. This color-coded tool pinpoints the least and most congested sailing times for drive-on passengers. What’s new for summer is that all destinations are now included. 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 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](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule).

Olympia Rotary Club briefing
On Monday, I was invited to speak to the Olympia Rotary Club. I provided an overview of the nation’s largest ferry system and discussed the challenges we face as well as the reforms and progress we have made. I appreciate the opportunity to meet with the rotary and enjoyed answering their questions.

Bremerton, Anacortes and San Juan Islands community meetings
This week marked the second week of our community meetings. We met with the communities of Bremerton, Anacortes and the San Juan Islands. I appreciate everyone who took the time to attend. Next week, I will be at the Kingston Community Center (Monday evening) and Langley Middle School on Whidbey Island (Wednesday evening). For meeting materials and information visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/commuterupdates/pub_meetings.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/commuterupdates/pub_meetings.htm).
Governor bill signing
On Tuesday, I attended the press conference where Gov. Chris Gregoire signed the second engrossed substitute senate bill 5742 into law. This bill covers many aspects of the ferry system including but not limited to: vessel surcharge authority, fuel sales tax exemption for WSF, captains’ responsibilities and performance measures. For more information on the Governor’s 2011 bill action visit http://www.governor.wa.gov/billaction/2011/default.asp.

Centennial Accord meeting
I had the pleasure of attending the 22nd annual Centennial Accord meeting in Shelton. There were various work sessions to attend and I found the information invaluable. For more information on the Centennial Accord visit http://www.goia.wa.gov.

Next Week:
- June 13 community meeting in Kingston
- June 15 community meeting in Langley, Whidbey Island
- Washington State Transportation Commission subcommittee meeting
- Central waterfront subcommittee meetings
- Meeting with U.S. Coast Guard Captain Ferguson

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

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