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### **New vessel update**

On Monday, Gov. Chris Gregoire announced that the ferry system will move forward with construction of two 64-car Island Home style vessels and will not build a smaller 50-car vessel. Instead, an agreement was reached with Pierce County to extend the lease on one of the county's ferries until new vessels can be built for the route. The two new ferries are part of a five vessel program for the system, which also includes building three 144-car vessels. The design and construction of five boats nearly simultaneously is a first for the state's ferry system in more than 30 years.

### **Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility Incident**

On Wednesday, I was alerted to an incident at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility that was initially reported as very serious. I met WSF employee Walt Chmielowski at Swedish Hospital in Seattle. Fortunately, Walt was released that afternoon and he appears to be doing fine after falling and injuring his shoulder. Thanks to the Bainbridge Island emergency services and staff at Eagle Harbor for their quick response.

### **Sailings added to the Port Townsend / Keystone route**

We added sailings to the Port Townsend/Keystone ferry schedule beginning Sunday, May 11 and continuing through the peak summer season until October 13. The additional sailings are scheduled for Thursday through Sunday evenings and Monday mornings to help accommodate heavy peak season traffic. For more information visit:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedules/current/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedules/current/)

### **Sale of passenger-only ferries**

We have an unsolicited offer for the purchase of both the Snohomish and Chinook passenger-only ferries (POF). The ferry system has received authorization to commence negotiations. This is in keeping with 2007 legislation that mandated we sell the POFs. I will have more to report in my next update.

### **Recap of meetings this week**

- Early in the week, I met with legislative leadership on the ferry financing work and our preparations for the 2009 legislative session.
- On Thursday, I had the opportunity to participate in a forum to provide feedback to the U.S. Coast Guard on their safety, security and inspection program. I benefited greatly hearing from others in the industry.
- I also had the opportunity to meet with leadership from the Seattle Department of Transportation to talk about Colman Dock and next steps for the ferry system.

- I met the ferry system's staff masters Friday morning and learned a lot from their years of experience in the fleet. We had a lively discussion about a range of ferry issues.
- I attended the new employee orientation on Thursday. I met the newest additions to the ferry family and hopefully inspired them to achieve their best here.

### **Coming Up Next Week**

I will attend:

- Evergreen Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration luncheon.
- WSF Service Award luncheon.
- Ongoing ferry financing meetings.