



June 25, 2010

This Week:

- Ferries Reform
- Governor Gregoire Announces Plan to Transform Washington's Budget
- Chetzemoka Marine Evacuation System Test
- 144-car Yakima Gets Some Much Needed Paint
- Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting
- Plan Ahead for July Fourth Weekend
- Comment Reminder: Proposed Schedule Options for Anacortes/San Juan Islands/ Sidney B.C.

Ferries Reform

Last night there was another media story on the ferry system. The story led viewers to believe that WSF paid more in overtime during the last decade than what was actually paid. In fact, the story nearly doubled the amount of overtime paid to staff chief engineers. The story also neglected to mention that WSF has reduced overtime by \$1.4 million in the last three years and that WSF's overtime as a percent of labor costs is eight percent, compared to BC Ferries at 11.5 percent. Moving forward, we have developed a detailed overtime policy that, with very few exceptions, requires prior management approval for overtime. This is a new policy and has been put into place immediately. We believe this policy will continue the downward trend in overtime pay. For more information on the progress WSF has made to reduce costs in recent years and the steps we are taking to continue realizing greater efficiencies, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2010/06/FerriesDivisionReform.

Governor Gregoire Announces Plan to Transform Washington's Budget

Yesterday, Gov. Chris Gregoire shared her new budget-building process. It was quite clear that the Governor is looking for ways to do things differently. One of the examples she used was to consider privatizing the ferry system. This is not a new idea and has been reviewed previously. However, in difficult financial times, we must look at all our options. For more information on the Governor's budget building process, visit www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=1521&newsType=1.

Chetzemoka Marine Evacuation System Test

On Tuesday, crews at Everett Shipyard tested the Chetzemoka's marine evacuation system. To watch video of the system test, visit <http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2010/06/crews-slide-to-safety-during-chetzemoka.html>. We will continue to share milestones for the Chetzemoka as we move toward completion of the vessel. For more information on the progress of the Kwa-di Tabil class ferries, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries.

144-car Yakima Gets Some Much Needed Paint

The 144-car Yakima received new paint at Lake Union Drydock in Seattle this spring. It is scheduled to return to service in the San Juan Islands in early July. The exterior sides of the vessel and passenger deck exterior will be painted when the vessel goes to drydock in spring 2011. To view before and after photos of the newly painted vessel, visit www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157624230469931/.

Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting

Secretary Hammond and I briefed the Washington State Transportation Commission on Wednesday. The purpose of the presentation was to share the progress WSF has made with respect to cost containment and the steps the ferry system is taking to continue realizing greater efficiencies. For more information on this topic and to view the presentation, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2010/06/FerriesDivisionReform.

Plan Ahead for July Fourth Weekend

WSF is planning in advance for heavy traffic this July Fourth holiday weekend as many locals and tourists attend the various fireworks displays in the Puget Sound Region, from Lopez Island to Point Defiance. The

heaviest traffic is expected westbound Thursday, July 1 and Friday, July 2, and eastbound Monday, July 5. Sailing schedules will vary by route. For more information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/.

Comment Reminder: Proposed Schedule Options for Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney B.C.

We have received more than 100 comments from customers on the fall 2010 proposed schedule options for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney B.C. routes. These schedule proposals are the result of close collaboration with the San Juan Islands Ferry Advisory Committee. These changes are designed to improve schedule reliability. Comments can be sent to wsfplanning@wsdot.wa.gov. Comments will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, June 30. Visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/Service/ScheduleProposals to download the two proposals.

Next Week:

- Kitsap Sun Editorial Board
- Tour of Chetzemoka progress at Everett Shipyard

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

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