

Washington State Ferries

Keystone Citizen Advisory Group

Introductory Meeting

June 7, 2004



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WSF System Overview



WSF operates the largest ferry fleet in the United States. Twenty-eight ferries cross Puget Sound and its inland waterways, carrying over 25 million passengers to 20 different ports of call.



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WSF Strategic Plan: What is it?

The **WSF Strategic Business Plan** focuses on the operational elements of the ferry system's budget.

cost reduction + fare increases + new revenue



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Interchangeable Vessels

WSF is scheduled to build four Issaquah 130-type vessels to be used throughout the system.

*Issaquah
130 Vessel*



The 76-year old Steel Electric vessels currently serving the Keystone-Port Townsend ferry route are scheduled for retirement in accordance with the WSF Strategic Plan.



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Why did WSF undertake the Keystone-Pt. Townsend Project?

WSF's Strategic Plan

Operational Constraints

- **Keystone Harbor**
- **Retirement of current vessels**
- **Terminal Capacity**

Operational: Challenges of Keystone Harbor

- Tides and currents
- Shallow – vessel draft
- Narrow point of entry



Operational: Current Vessel Constraints



Steel Electric Vessel

- 76 years of age & operationally obsolete
- Limited car and passenger carrying capacity
- Significant capital investment to maintain safe operations
- Not up to current ADA standards



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Operational: Terminal Capacity

Inadequate vehicle holding capacity and missed sailings result in traffic overflows



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Identification of Problem

- Accommodate replacement vessels
- Improve public safety
- Maintain schedule (2003 cancellations due to fog – 12 ; tides – 75)
- Improve operational reliability



Grounded State Ferry MV *Quinault* (source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, August 23, 2002; photo credit: Meryl Schenker)



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Milestones

2003

2004



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2002 Feasibility Study

Purpose: To determine if it is feasible to consider relocating the Keystone Terminal outside the Harbor.

Conclusion: Yes, it is technically possible to relocate the Keystone Terminal outside the harbor.

Next Steps: The study did not recommend any course of action.



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2003/04 Environmental Review

Purpose: With public input, to study all reasonable alternatives for providing service on the route



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Modify the existing Keystone Harbor



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Relocate terminal on Keystone Spit



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Relocate terminal east of Keystone Spit



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What we heard during scoping from the nearly 250 comments received...

- Importance of wildlife, vegetation, Crockett Lake, and parks and recreation
- Concerns regarding the type of vessel to be used on the route
- Requests for more information on local traffic and vehicle holding impacts



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Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)

March 2004: In response to public concern over relocation options for Keystone Terminal, the Legislature halted work on the environmental review process.

It appropriated \$1 million for WSF to conduct an analysis focused only on Keystone Harbor.



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Next Steps

- April - May '04:** Establish CAG
- June '04:** Preparation for Harbor Modeling
- June – Oct '04:** Technical Analyses
- Sept – Nov '04:** Report Prepared
- December 1, '04:** Final Report Due



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