

**WSDOT Ferries Division Assistant Secretary David Moseley's Weekly Update
March 28, 2008**

Dear Colleagues,

My fourth week as Assistant Secretary, has taken me all over the Sound. I've had the pleasure of attending four Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) public meetings in Bainbridge Island, Kingston, Southworth and Coupeville. I learned that folks are cautiously optimistic about the new leadership at the department and at the ferry system – and they clearly want to see results! I gained so much through my conversations with the communities and I would like to share some of the recurring themes:

- Improve transit connections. It looks like we have work to do with our transit partners, specifically bus services, to seamlessly transition our customers to get them to their destinations.
- Provide more advanced notice of service changes or disruptions. We are working to improve customer notification systems when we have service changes. Our e-mail alerts go out to thousands, but not always in the most efficient manner. I am also looking into new, innovative ways to reach out about service changes.
- Mitigate congestion on local roadways. Summer is fast approaching and that means more cars queuing up on the roadways in our ferry served communities. We recognize that this is headache for folks and we are working with our partner the Washington State Patrol to make sure that driveways and critical access points aren't blocked, and to reduce line cutting. Additionally, we are looking at ways to make sure our processing of customers is as efficient as possible.
- Provide more funding for ferries. This is one of my top priorities in my new position. I am rolling up my sleeves to tackle the ferry financing legislated work that will provide a sound financial foundation for the ferry system moving forward.

Next week, I will attend the four remaining FAC public meetings in Bremerton (Monday), Anacortes (Tuesday), Friday Harbor (Wednesday) and Vashon (Thursday). I will report out on what I hear. Meeting handouts are available online and summaries of the discussion will be available shortly at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358.htm> .

On Tuesday, I witnessed the Governor's signing of the transportation budget, which provides us with the necessary funds to build the six new boats for the system. I am excited to have her support and yours as we move this program forward.

This Thursday was the bid opening for the 50-car Steilacoom II design vessel to be used on the Port Townsend/Keystone route. We received one bid that was about \$9 million more than our own estimate. We will be evaluating the bid to see where changes need to be made; however, our goal remains the same - to build new boats.

I'm looking forward to next week and hopefully seeing many of you at the public meetings. As always, I'm open to your comments and suggestions about this report, or any ferry-related issues.

David