Action plan for a sustainable ferry system released

I’m excited to announce that in honor of Earth Day, we launched a two-year Sustainability Action Plan this week that outlines goals and actions for greener ferries and terminals. It includes initiatives to protect orca whales, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, reduce waste, and other ways to make the ferry system more sustainable. The plan also lays out a path to fulfill WSDOT’s commitment to sustainability, achieve the goals set out in Governor Inslee’s Executive Orders 18-01 (energy efficiency) and 18-02 (orca recovery), and implement sustainability recommendations outlined in our 2040 Long Range Plan.

Community and stakeholder engagement is an important aspect of our Sustainability Action Plan to identify potential new focus areas, goals and actions.

Because we operate our 23 ferries on Puget Sound and manage 20 terminals on its shores, we have an obligation to
ensure we’re doing everything we can to protect our environment. This plan lays out our commitment to tackle these issues and continue our efforts to make Washington’s ferry system the greenest in the world!

**Summer vehicle reservations now open**

We released the first tier of summer [vehicle reservations](#) at 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, for our Port Townsend/Coupeville and Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney, B.C. routes. Thanks to the hard work of our IT team over the past couple months, our online system was able to accommodate many more users in the busy first few hours and it had far fewer errors.

There was a 22-percent increase in the number of summer season vehicle reservations made on opening day compared with last year.

In the first hour alone, nearly 16,000 reservations were made – more than double the 7,000 or so we had in 2018! Our call center agents were also hard at work thanks to phone system improvements that allowed them to take 28 percent more calls than last year. However, we know many of you received a busy signal or encountered errors on our website. I want you to know, our IT team will continue its work to improve our systems during this peak period.

Don’t give up though if you did not get your preferred sailing date or time. Our second tier of reservations will be released at 7 a.m. two weeks before your sailing date and the third tier two days prior. Check out our [blog with tips](#) for securing morning of the event, we will make an extra stop at Lopez Island during our 7:30 a.m. Anacortes to Orcas Island sailing to accommodate participants.

**Peak season surcharge begins May 1**

Starting Wednesday, May 1, the peak season surcharge goes into effect for vehicle- and-driver [fares](#). This change does not affect passenger fares and multi-ride products. The surcharge lasts through Sept. 30.

**US 101 road work near Port Discovery**

Heads up if your ferry travels include a late-night or early-morning drive on US 101! Plan for single-lane closures with alternating...
Public meetings kick off next week

We’re gearing up to co-host a series of public meetings with our local Ferry Advisory Committees! Next week, we’ll be in Kingston Monday and Coupeville Wednesday to provide the latest about the ferry system and hear your thoughts. Topics include proposed changes to fares, implementation of the 2040 Long Range Plan and local projects specific to each route. Heads up if you use our Bremerton or Bainbridge Island routes. We’ll be in those communities the following week.

Amy Scarton
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