Another step closer to hybrid-electric vessel conversion

I’m happy that plans to convert our largest ferries from diesel to hybrid-electric propulsion got a big boost recently! Earlier this month, the trustee administering the nationwide federal Volkswagen settlement approved up to $35 million to retrofit the first of our three Jumbo Mark II class vessels. As the largest consumer of diesel fuel in the state, and with our Jumbo Mark II class accounting for a quarter of that consumption, we’re excited for this next step in electrifying our fleet!

Last month, we selected Siemens to complete the propulsion system upgrade design for our three Jumbo Mark IIs. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021.

Sammy the Sounder visits Wenatchee

Orca sightings on the Sound are always a magical experience and our customers on the Seattle/Bainbridge
route got to enjoy a ferry ride with one! The official Seattle Sounders FC mascot, Sammy the Sounder, was spotted aboard Wenatchee earlier this week, taking selfies with fans and handing out tickets to Wednesday’s Western Conference semifinal match against Real Salt Lake. A big thank you to Sammy for making our customers smile during a cloudy afternoon commute.

Ferry riders of all ages enjoyed meeting Sammy the Sounder aboard Wenatchee during the Tuesday afternoon commute.

Vehicle restrictions possible next week on Vashon Island routes

Vehicles with a ground clearance of less than 14 inches should avoid our Vashon and Point Defiance terminals after 11 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28 through Friday, Nov. 1. During these times, our loading ramps may be too steep for large trucks to clear. This restriction is common at our Vashon Island terminals during extreme low tides, which will also return Nov. 13-17 and Nov. 25-29.

Large vehicles should avoid late-night sailings at our Vashon and Point Defiance terminals next week.

#FerryFotoContest winner

The cover of our Winter 2020 sailing schedule will feature a beautiful photo by Jimmy Bernhard (@SlideShowJimmy). In our #FerryFotoContest, Jimmy’s shot received the most “likes” on our @wsferries Twitter feed. Thank you to all the great photographers who submitted a pic, as well as everyone who connected with us on Twitter for this contest. And of course, congratulations Jimmy!
Congratulations to the Sounders for advancing to the Western Conference finals on Tuesday, Oct. 29! We wish them luck. Scarves up!

Amy Scarton
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

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WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly
Questions? Contact us at WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov

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