



## Maintenance work, vessel preservation and construction projects to resume

I was very happy that the governor signed a plan last week that allows our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility to reopen, vessel preservation work to resume and terminal construction projects to restart! Each job site must have an approved comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control plan that demonstrates how they will adhere to a list of [30 safety protocols](#). Once that's in place only low-risk activities, with workers six feet or more apart, can resume.



*Our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility is expected to reopen next week.*



## April 30, 2020

### Joyful noise extended through May

For nearly a month now, all our ferries underway at 8 p.m. have been sounding their whistles nightly in appreciation of workers on the front line of the COVID-19 response. We've been hearing how much people are enjoying this tribute and I'm happy to announce our vessels will continue to participate in this community and worldwide movement to [make a joyful noise](#) through May 31.



*We have extended our nightly 8 p.m. ferry whistle tribute through May 31 in recognition of frontline employees.*

### Riders encouraged to purchase tickets online

To better protect our riders



Construction at [Seattle's Colman Dock](#) and our [new Mukilteo terminal site](#) will also resume next week.

### Assistant Secretary's Award

In a sign of the times, we presented our Assistant Secretary's Award virtually for the first time ever during an employee webinar last week focused on COVID-19 topics. Port Engineer Chris Blasko was recognized for delivering great results and demonstrating sustained dedication and strong character as a public servant.



Director of Vessel Engineering and Maintenance Matt Von Ruden, Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh and I presented our Assistant Secretary's Award virtually last week.

In his 30 years with WSF, Chris has worked in the fleet and our training department, He is currently overseeing the maintenance of nine vessels, including our largest Jumbo Mark II class. One colleague says, "He is always thinking of

and employees against the spread of COVID-19, we continue to encourage all customers to [buy tickets online](#) in advance. All fares are now available online or at a self-serve kiosk, including those that normally require in-person purchase and proof of eligibility such as youth, senior and disabled fares.



*Pre-purchasing tickets minimizes the amount of contact and money exchange that needs to take place at tollbooths.*

If you won't be able to use previously purchased tickets or the unused portion of travel passes because of COVID-19 concerns, you may be eligible for a refund. All refund requests can be [submitted online](#). We unfortunately cannot extend the 90-day use period for tickets and travel passes. Customers with monthly ReValue passes should cancel their account to avoid future payments. Multi-ride ReValue pass users should suspend their accounts if they would like to stop payments. Any remaining rides on either pass are still valid through the expiration date after cancelling or suspending the account.

Customers can sign up for [email rider alerts](#), check

ways to improve the maintenance and efficiency of the vessels... Chris will always step up to take on additional work on top of his normal duties. In doing so he has helped propel the vessel maintenance operations to higher standards.”

Congratulations Chris and thank you for your dedication and for going above and beyond!

### Recognizing our frontline employees

To help recognize the hard work and dedication of WSDOT’s frontline heroes, the agency is highlighting employees who support our transportation system during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, Terminal Attendant Luke Freimark was featured on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



*Terminal Attendant Luke Freimark helps to make sure essential travelers and emergency responders board and disembark our ferries safely at our Seattle terminal.*

Thank you Luke, as well as all of our frontline terminal staff, vessel crews and maintenance employees! I want you to know that your work to keep our passengers and each other safe is appreciated every day, and especially during these trying times.

### Amy Scarton

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

[WSF COVID-19 travel updates](#) and follow WSF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for notification of resumption of regular service and other rider information.

### New fares start tomorrow, May 1

Several fare changes will go into effect tomorrow, May 1. The annual peak season surcharge begins for single vehicle fares and runs through Sept. 30. Passenger fares and multi-ride products are not affected by the peak season changes. Also kicking in, several [general fare increases and policy changes](#) approved last summer by the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC), which sets all ferry fares, that will affect all fares. If you have questions about these fare changes, please [contact the WSTC](#).



WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly)

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Questions? Contact us at [WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov)

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