SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct closure outreach

We teamed up with Kitsap Transit this week to talk to more than 500 of our customers about the upcoming State Route 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct closure. During five outreach sessions on vessels, at Seattle’s Colman Dock and a lunchtime webinar, we provided customers with information on how to share the ride, or use transportation alternatives during #Realign99. We have a website that provides Kitsap County-to-Seattle customers with helpful ways to plan now for the closure, which starts tomorrow night, Jan. 11!

Kitsap Transit and WSF representatives answer questions from customers in Colman Dock about how the upcoming SR 99 viaduct closure will affect their commute.

Construction begins on new Mukilteo terminal building

This week saw increased activity at the future home of the Mukilteo ferry terminal. Contractor IMCO Construction is

January 10, 2019

2019 legislative session starts Monday, Jan. 14

On Monday, the legislature convenes for its four-month biennial budget session. Gov. Jay Inslee’s budget provides strong support for WSF, requesting funding for two new vessels, converting two existing vessels to hybrid-electric power, funding the Colman Dock and Mukilteo terminal projects, as well as increased funding for operations. I look forward to working with the legislature as they consider our budget and review our just completed 2040 Long Range Plan.

The governor’s budget proposal includes funding for more new vessels like Suquamish, which entered service last October.

Maritime innovation
setting up operations at the site in preparation for construction of a new passenger building, holding lanes, toll plaza, and waterfront promenade. After years of planning, design, and site work it’s exciting to be at this stage. I’ll share updates as construction continues.

The new Mukilteo ferry terminal will be located one-third of a mile east of the existing one. The facility is scheduled to open in 2020.

WSF holds first public outreach meeting of the year in Friday Harbor

The WSF Executive Team and I met with dozens of San Juan Islanders in Friday Harbor yesterday. We primarily discussed our recently released 2040 Long Range Plan, but also answered questions on several other ferry-related topics. Thank you to everyone who attended and provided us with great feedback, as well as the San Juan County Ferry Advisory Committee for co-hosting the meeting with us.

While in the San Juan Islands, we also met with terminal staff, crew and engineers working on the route. Thank you to all the employees who talked to us and all three San Juan County Councilmembers (Bill Watson, Rick Hughes and Jamie Stephens) for spending an entire day with us! These “floating meetings” are vital in keeping the WSF Executive Team connected with those who operate our vessels and terminals.

On Tuesday, I presented to the Governor’s Maritime Innovation Advisory Council, which has been working over the past year to develop a comprehensive plan to accelerate and support technology, innovation and best practices throughout the state’s entire maritime industry. The advisory council presented the governor with its report this week in conjunction with the kick off of his Maritime Blue 2050 initiative. It’s the country’s first initiative to bolster innovations in the maritime sector that create living-wage jobs, protect the environment and ensure sustainability for the industry.

"I wanted to write to extend my deep appreciation for one of your employees, Dee [Ernest, Terminal Operations]. She works at the Bainbridge Island terminal, and I have
The WSF Executive Team and I address questions from San Juan Islands residents about ferry-related issues at a public meeting yesterday.

WSF directors and I in the wheelhouse of the Tillikum with Capt. Jack Hamstra, Able-Bodied Seaman Suzanne Lowe and Chief Mate Andy Beach.

Amy Scarton
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

interacted with her many times when I pay my toll fee. Every experience I've had with Dee has been wonderful. She is always so pleasant and professional. She has excellent interpersonal skills. While she is aware of the need to process all of us through in a timely manner, she takes that extra minute or two that makes a difference. She remembers not only me, but our previous conversations. On my weekly trips to Seattle, I now try to be sure to go through her booth. I'm certain that I am not alone. Please extend my thanks to Dee for her outstanding work and for making what would normally be a routine transaction something that I look forward to."

-Seattle/Bainbridge Island customer

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

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information
If you would like to learn more about accessibility and the tools we have available, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Accessibility