



Annual ferry ridership swells to nearly 25 million

Our annual ridership increased by more than 225,000 in 2018 to nearly 25 million. That's up 10 percent from five years ago and the highest level since 2002! The biggest surge last year came on the Vashon/Southworth segment of the "Triangle Route," where ridership was up 8.8 percent. Read more about our 2018 ridership numbers and see route-by-route data in our recent [news release](#). Also, be sure to check out our updated [fact sheet](#).



24.7 million people rode with us last year. That's 34 times the population of the city of Seattle! Annual ridership is forecast to grow 30 percent to all-time highs by 2040.

Ferry commute mode shift changes during first week of SR 99 closure

Hundreds of ferry riders [answered the call](#) and left their car at home during the first week of the State Route 99 [Alaskan](#)

January 24, 2019

2019 legislative session begins

The 2019 legislative session kicked off in Olympia last week. Transportation Secretary Roger Millar gave State of Washington Transportation addresses to the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Transportation Committees, and I met with ferry legislators to review our [2040 Long Range Plan](#). Gov. Inslee's budget includes funding for two new vessels, converting two existing vessels to hybrid-electric, funding our two current terminal projects – Seattle's [Colman Dock](#) and [Mukilteo](#) – as well as increased funding for operations. Later today, I'll be presenting to the House Transportation Committee to give an update on our Long Range Plan and discuss our current funding structure, as well as future funding needs.

Way Viaduct closure. About 14 percent of daily commuters who passed through Seattle's Colman Dock opted not to drive. We also saw a 15 percent increase in walk-on ridership on our Edmonds/ Kingston route as many people took the Seattle-bound Sounder train from Edmonds and the new Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry from Kingston to Colman Dock. Thank you for doing your part, keep it up!



During the first week of the SR 99 Viaduct closure, we saw an increase in walk-on passengers and a decrease in vehicles passing through Seattle's Colman Dock.

Farewell to Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa

At the end of this month, we will say farewell to our Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa. Liz started with us in 2010 as a senior port engineer, before becoming the first woman to serve as WSF's chief of staff in 2015. She led and managed all areas of the organization.

Liz led significant efforts here, including the reorganization of WSF's executive staff, improved relations with labor, and short- and long-range vessel maintenance strategies.

A big thank you to Liz for her great leadership. All of us at WSF wish her well in her new role at Whatcom County. We are currently searching for her replacement.



WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar addresses the Senate Transportation Committee.

Hood Canal Bridge closure tonight

If your ferry adventures take you across the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge tonight, heads up! The bridge will be closed from 10 p.m. tonight, Jan. 24, through 1 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, for annual winter storm training. The training prepares WSDOT Hood Canal Bridge maintenance crews for specific bridge activities related to winter storms.



There will be winter storm training on the bridge during the nighttime closure.



"Employee Dana [Billington, Terminal Operations] on Seattle's Colman Dock is absolutely awesome! Watching her run back and forth between the



Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa will be leaving WSF next week. She earned the WSDOT Leadership in Management Award in 2016.

Amy Scarton

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Bainbridge and Bremerton car loading lots has brightened my day... especially after a long Saturday work day. WSF need more employees like "Dana"...

-Seattle customer on [Twitter](#)



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