Wild winter weather!

What a wild week of winter weather – and it sounds like we’re in for more snow, wind and freezing conditions this weekend! I want to give a shout out to all our vessel and terminal crews for braving the winter weather so we can continue to provide our customers with safe service. Despite a few tense moments on Monday, with some ferries reporting 90 mph wind gusts, our captains and crews kept everyone safe. I want you to know that each captain makes the decision prior to each departure and we will not sail if it’s not safe to do so.

A galley window on Puyallup shattered on Monday while on our Edmonds/Kingston route due to strong winds and rough seas.

Lopez Island terminal repairs

Low temperatures caused a mechanical issue at our Lopez

February 7, 2019

SR 99 Tunnel opens!

Congratulations to the team at WSDOT’s Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program for a successful grand opening weekend of the new SR 99 Tunnel! I was honored to be on hand for the festivities!

WSF Director of Terminal Engineering Nicole McIntosh and I at the SR 99 Tunnel ribbon cutting ceremony.

SR 305 Agate Pass Bridge delays Feb. 19 to March 1

If you use our Seattle/Bainbridge route, you may want to schedule additional time if you cross the SR 305 Agate Pass Bridge. Drivers can expect 30-minute delays, if not more, for
Island terminal Tuesday morning, forcing us to temporarily suspend all sailings there. Crews from our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility's Carpentry, Machine and Electrical shops quickly responded and repaired the problem by evening. Thanks to their hard work in bone-chilling conditions, we were able to resume service to the island by the end of the sailing day and give our customers the option to get back to where they needed to be. I appreciate everyone’s patience that day, as I know it was a challenging situation for Lopez Island residents.

Frozen equipment caused a hoist cable to unravel at our Lopez Island terminal Tuesday morning. Our maintenance crews repaired the problem by the evening.

Construction coming soon near the Clinton terminal

Starting next week, our contractor, Pacific Pile and Marine, will begin work on a new pick-up and drop-off lane, retaining wall and ADA improvements on Ferry Dock Road near the Clinton terminal. We shared details on what to expect during construction at a public meeting on Wednesday night attended by about 50 people.

The project will create a safer pick-up and drop-off facility with an additional lane on Ferry Dock Road to allow thru traffic to pass, and will improve ADA access for walk-on passengers with a new sidewalk, improved lighting, new pavement markings for vision-impaired pedestrians and an ADA-compliant crosswalk. Work is expected to be complete at the end of July 2019. During construction, we will staff a 24/7 hotline and provide frequent updates so customers and annual bridge work. Drivers are encouraged to add more travel time to reach our Bainbridge terminal. Other alternatives include taking the Bremerton or Kingston ferries.

From Tuesday, Feb. 19, through Friday, March 1, the bridge will be reduced to one alternating lane of traffic during the following times:

- 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays
- 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Due to expected delays, travelers might want to consider traveling early or late in the day or reschedule discretionary trips.

One-way traffic will alternate across Agate Pass Bridge during upcoming inspection and maintenance work.

Vehicle reservations for spring schedule available Tuesday, Feb. 12

Just a reminder that spring schedule vehicle reservations will be available starting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, for our Anacortes/San Juan Islands/ Sidney, BC and Port Townsend/Coupeville routes. This date was delayed two weeks due to
neighbors can find out the latest information and reach us quickly with any questions or concerns.

About 50 people attended our public meeting yesterday outlining what to expect during construction on Ferry Dock Road near our Clinton terminal. Construction begins next week.

Amy Scarton
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

upcoming unscheduled maintenance and pending vessel assignments for several ferries across the system. The change does not affect the dates of the spring schedule, which begins on March 31 and goes through June 22.

"After leaving Lopez on the 6:40 a.m. (sailing), trying to return on the 10:20 (a.m. sailing) but having to sail past to (Friday Harbor) & back to Anacortes, then spending the day waiting and wondering if I would make it home last night (due to weather-related mechanical issues at the Lopez terminal), getting on that 9:05 (p.m.) was such a relief! Thank you for all that you do. 🚢❤️⚓️❤️

-Anacortes/Lopez Island customer on Twitter

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