



## Two public meetings this week, two more next week

This week, we kicked off a round of [public meetings](#) with our local [Ferry Advisory Committees](#)! On Monday evening, we were in Kingston to present information and answer questions about a variety of ferry topics, including proposed changes to [fares](#) and the implementation of our [2040 Long Range Plan](#). We also had WSDOT engineers at the meeting to discuss upcoming construction projects that will affect our Edmonds/Kingston route customers as well as a Washington State Patrol trooper to address traffic management around our terminals.



*About 125 people attended Monday's meeting in Kingston, where many had questions for WSP about traffic management near the terminal.*

We then went to Whidbey Island Wednesday evening, focusing on the Mukilteo/Clinton and Port Townsend/

## May 2, 2019

### 2019-2021 state transportation budget

A new hybrid-electric [Olympic-class ferry](#) and a hybrid-electric conversion of one of our existing vessels are the big WSF highlights in the 2019-2021 state transportation budget passed by lawmakers on Sunday, the final day of the 2019 legislative session. The \$9.98 billion budget also includes funding for two current terminal projects – Seattle's [Colman Dock](#) and [Mukilteo](#) – as well as additional funding for the remainder of the current biennium. I'd like to thank the legislators, especially those on the transportation committees under the leadership of Sen. Steve Hobbs, Sen. Curtis King, Rep. Jake Fey and Rep. Andrew Barkis! The budget now heads to the governor's desk for signature.

**We're one of the most scenic ferry rides in U.S.!**

Coupeville routes. Topics specific to the routes included updates on terminal projects at [Mukilteo](#) and [Clinton](#), as well as a Keystone Harbor Safety and Navigation Study.



*I had a great discussion with roughly 30 people at our Coupeville meeting on Wednesday about topics such as fares and service on the challenging Port Townsend route.*

Next week, we're holding meetings in Bremerton at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and Bainbridge Island at 6 p.m. Thursday to provide those communities with a brief presentation and time to ask questions and share comments.

#### **Transportation officials tour our maintenance facility**

I had the honor of hosting several members of the [Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials](#) (WASHTO) at our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility in Bainbridge Island yesterday, including WASHTO President and WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar. WASHTO provides a forum for exchanging ideas, exploring and adapting techniques, promoting quality and best practices for implementation.



It should come as no surprise to many of our customers that we made Smithsonian Magazine's list of the [Seven Most Scenic Ferry Rides in the United States](#). We came in at number three, behind New York City's Staten Island Ferry and Rhode Island's Block Island Ferry. The article does not name a specific route, but does mention Seattle and Bainbridge Island. It also states that we're "One of the best ways to get a sweeping view of Seattle's skyline, including the Space Needle." But most of you already knew that!

#### **National Bike to Work Month**

May is National Bike Month and here at WSDOT we celebrate the occasion with [Bike to Work Month](#). Did you know people ride their bicycles onto our ferries nearly 300,000 times each year? In addition to the environmental, health and mobility benefits of biking, [bikes on our ferries](#) get priority loading and unloading on most sailings.



*WASHTO and WSF Executive Team members and I posing for a picture during a tour of our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility in Bainbridge Island.*

After touring Eagle Harbor, we all took *Wenatchee* for a round trip to Seattle. Big thanks to Capt. Joel Michelson and Relief Chief Engineer Sean Wall and their crews for hosting and providing the group with tours of the wheelhouse and engine room. We all had a great discussion about the importance of workforce development and the eventual conversion of *Wenatchee* to hybrid-electric.

I also want to thank Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh, Director of Operations Greg Faust, Director of Vessel Engineering and Maintenance Matt von Ruden and Eagle Harbor General Manager R.J. Kelly for making the day such a success!

**Amy Scarton**

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division



*I ride my bike to work pretty often and encourage everyone to give it a try if you can!*

**Boating season opens this Saturday, May 4**



We'll be sharing the water with many more mariners starting Saturday, May 4, the [Opening Day of Boating Season](#). Now is a good time to remind our fellow seafarers to freshen up on their boating safety, rules and regulations, and to please give large vessels like our ferries plenty of space to maneuver.



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

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

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