



Memorial Day weekend travel

We're expecting nearly half a million riders today through Tuesday, May 28, for [Memorial Day weekend travel](#). Customers driving a vehicle onto a vessel should plan for long wait times, especially during peak times. To reduce or eliminate ferry wait times this weekend, consider walking on or taking an early morning or late evening sailing. If you do drive, arrive extra early for your scheduled sailing, stay updated with our [ferry alerts](#) and check [terminal conditions](#). Also, be sure to check our [sailing schedule](#) as many routes will be on a holiday timetable on Monday, May 27. I wish everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend and I thank all who have served our country!



Busiest travel times will likely be today through Saturday westbound to Kitsap Peninsula and the islands, then Sunday through Tuesday eastbound back to the mainland.

Governor signs 2019-2021 transportation budget

This week, Gov. Jay Inslee signed the 2019-2021 state

May 23, 2019

Two successful rescues in six months for Bremerton crew

For the second time since November, crewmembers on our Bremerton "G" watch conducted a successful water rescue last week! They were working aboard *Kaleetan* Friday evening when they picked up a kayaker just outside Rich Passage during a Bremerton to Seattle sailing, treating him for minor hypothermia before transferring the victim to an emergency medical services crew that met them at Colman Dock.



Able-bodied seamen Tom Weisman and Carol Just launch a rescue boat from Kaleetan to save a kayaker on Friday.

Much of the crew also played a role in a [Nov. 19,](#)

transportation budget, which includes a new hybrid-electric [Olympic-class ferry](#) and a hybrid-electric conversion of one of our existing vessels. Other WSF highlights in the \$9.98 billion budget include funding for two current terminal projects – Seattle’s [Colman Dock](#) and in [Mukilteo](#) – as well as additional funding for the remainder of the current biennium.



In addition to the transportation budget, the governor also signed a bill (pictured above) on Tuesday extending our contract with shipbuilder Vigor for up to five more vessels.

Public meetings in Southworth and Mukilteo

Our series of public meetings co-hosted by local [Ferry Advisory Committees](#) stopped in Southworth Tuesday. I was joined by several WSF staff and Executive Team members to present information and answer questions about general ferry topics like proposed changes to [fares](#), implementation of our [2040 Long Range Plan](#), the [new “Triangle” route schedule](#) and a future Fauntleroy terminal trestle replacement project. We’ll have a similar agenda next week on Vashon Island.

[2018 rescue of a boater](#) in the same area while working aboard *Chimacum*. I’m so proud of the crew for their heroic efforts during both rescues. I also extend my utmost admiration and thanks to all our highly trained vessel crews for your commitment to safety!

Mukilteo terminal work expanding into water

On Monday, we awarded Seattle-based Manson Construction a [contract to build the in-water structures](#) for our [Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal Project](#). This second and final phase of construction includes berthing and loading structures, along with demolition of the old terminal and nearby fishing pier and building a new fishing pier.



Scheduled to open in fall 2020, the new Mukilteo facility will replace our 62-year-old seismically vulnerable terminal.

National Maritime Day

It was [National Maritime Day](#) yesterday and in honor of the event, I thank all our mariners in the WSF family for their dedication to safely moving people across the Salish Sea every day. Not only will you find them out on the water, but also



Prior to the Southworth meeting, the WSF Executive Team and I toured the "Triangle" route and met with ferry riders, including Sen. Joe Nguyen (right).



Roughly 40 people came to our Southworth meeting on Tuesday to ask questions and comment about the new schedule and challenges on our "Triangle" route.

Tonight, we'll be at Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo (304 Lincoln Ave.) for a 5 p.m. open house on our [Mukilteo Multimodal Terminal Project](#). Our public meeting follows at 6 p.m., when we'll cover a wide range of ferry issues, including more on the Mukilteo terminal project and our [current project in Clinton](#). Next week, the [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) will host a tariff-focused meeting in Friday Harbor on Wednesday, May 29 and then we'll hold our final meeting on Vashon Island on Thursday, May 30.

amongst our land-based teams, such as our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility and in our administrative offices. I'm very proud to be a part of a team that keeps the region's maritime tradition alive and strong!



Becoming a mariner takes a tremendous amount of time and commitment, especially for members of our deck and engine crews.

Sustainability Action Plan presentation

We shared our new [Sustainability Action Plan](#) with leaders in the Seattle energy and clean technology sector at an "Energy Happy Hour" event on Monday. Our Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability Manager Kevin Bartoy presented, then answered questions on the plan, which includes initiatives to protect orca whales, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, reduce waste, and other ways to make the ferry system more sustainable. The plan also lays out a path to fulfill WSDOT's commitment to sustainability, achieving the goals set out in Governor

New chief of staff completes ordinary seaman training

WSF Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh completed our Ordinary Seaman New Employee Orientation this week, less than one month into her new role. All deck crews must pass this intensive training to work on our vessels as an ordinary seaman. The orientation includes firefighting, personal safety and survival, classroom time and job duty familiarization out in our fleet.



New Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh (right) experiences firsthand the extraordinary training that our deck crews must complete before working on our vessels.

I remember all the challenges that Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar and I overcame when we took the same training course two years ago. With the expertise of our trainers and great support of our classmates, we came out with a great appreciation for the incredible men and women that transport millions of people over the water every day!

Amy Scarton

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Inslee's Executive Orders [18-01](#) (energy efficiency) and [18-02](#) (orca recovery), and implement sustainability recommendations outlined in our [2040 Long Range Plan](#).

Bicycling is for everyone

May is National Bike Month and here at WSDOT we celebrate the occasion with [Bike to Work Month](#). Our Justin Resnick, WSF service planning manager and a regular bicyclist, shared information in a [WSDOT blog post](#) this week about the people and organizations that work to make bicycling a welcoming experience for everyone.



Along with environmental, health and traffic benefits, [biking on ferries](#) gets you priority loading and unloading on most sailings.



WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly

Questions? Contact us at WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov

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