



### **Wenatchee strikes whale in Elliott Bay**

On Tuesday night, the *Wenatchee* struck a humpback whale around 8:20 p.m., a few minutes after leaving Seattle on its way to Bainbridge Island. The whale surfaced several feet in front of the ferry, too late to turn the 460-foot vessel. We are all deeply saddened by this incident – the first reported time a vessel in the Washington State Ferries fleet has ever hit a marine mammal.

I can assure you that the health and safety of Puget Sound's whales are extremely important to us. We have procedures in place to watch for marine mammals and work with the [Orca Network](#) to report whale sightings and stranded marine mammals.

To all our customers, and anyone on the water, please be on the lookout for the increasing numbers of humpback and gray whales in our waters, and if you spot a dead or injured whale, call the NOAA Fisheries hotline at 866-767-6114.

### **Public meetings in Friday Harbor and on Vashon Island**

The [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) (WSTC) hosted a meeting in Friday Harbor last night to get public feedback on proposed changes to our [ferry fares](#). The WSTC is an appointed board who sets our fares and fare policies.

Tonight, I will be on Vashon Island for the last in our series of public meetings with local [Ferry Advisory Committees](#). Along with other WSF staff and Executive Team members, Transportation Commissioners and FAC members, we will present information and answer questions about general ferry topics like the implementation of our [2040 Long Range](#)

### **May 30, 2019**

#### **SR 525 nighttime work on Whidbey Island**

If your ferry travels include a nighttime drive on State Route 525 on Whidbey Island, plan for minor traffic delays up to 10 minutes in Freeland starting Monday, June 3. That's when work will begin on a [safety improvement project](#). For the next three weeks, the highway will be reduced to one lane overnight Sunday through Friday. Flaggers will alternate traffic through the work zone.



*Improvements will be made at three intersections in Freeland that will require nighttime lane closures on SR 525.*

[Plan](#), the [new "Triangle" route schedule](#) and a future Fautleroy terminal trestle replacement project.

### Memorial Day weekend ridership

As projected, we had close to [half a million customers](#) over the first long weekend of the busy travel season. From the Thursday before through the Tuesday after Memorial Day, we carried nearly 450,000 people, easily our highest weekend ridership so far in 2019. The busiest route was Seattle/Bainbridge, carrying more than 110,000 total riders, followed by Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton with almost 78,000 customers each. Thank you to all our employees on the vessels and at our terminals who worked over the long weekend to safely and efficiently get people to their holiday destinations!



*Friday was our busiest day of Memorial Day weekend, when we welcomed more than 85,000 customers on board our ferries, including nearly 33,000 vehicles!*

### Amy Scarton

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

### Height restrictions for vehicles possible on Mukilteo/Clinton route

Many of you know about our [tidal cancellations](#) on our Port Townsend/Coupeville route. But did you know that extreme low tides sometimes cause us to have vehicle height restrictions on our Mukilteo/Clinton route? Well, they're happening next week! During the following times, we may not be able to load vehicles more than 50-feet long, with low ground clearance, or with long rear overhangs:

- 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 4
- 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 5
- 12:45 to 2:45 p.m.  
Thursday, June 6
- 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Friday, June 7



*Drivers of large vehicles are asked to avoid our Mukilteo and Clinton terminals during periods of extreme low tides next week.*



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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**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](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Accessibility)

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