



Fourth of July week ridership

I hope everyone had a wonderful Independence Day! Assistant Secretary Amy Scarton asked me to guest write this edition of our WSF Weekly Update and both of us extend a special thank you to our crew members, engineers and maintenance staff who worked hard over the very busy holiday week to make sure our customers got to their destinations safely.

Between Friday, June 28, and Monday, July 8, we safely carried nearly 1 million people! Although ridership was down from this same period last year, we saw a year-to-year increase on our Edmonds/Kingston and Point Defiance/Tahlequah routes, as well as Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney, BC, despite 14 cancelled sailings due to a bomb scare in Friday Harbor on July 1 and unscheduled repairs to the 51-year-old *Elwha* on July 6.

July 11, 2019

Temporary schedule for Seattle ferries July 13-15

Don't forget, our Bainbridge and Bremerton routes will run on a [temporary sailing schedule](#) this coming Saturday, July 13, through Monday, July 15! During this time, one of the Seattle terminal's two available slips will be closed so crews can pour concrete for the pedestrian walkway connecting the southern slip (slip one) to the first third of the [new temporary terminal building](#).

When operations move into that new building in August, there will be big changes for walk-on passengers. Check out our [outreach dates and times](#) for when our [Colman Dock construction project](#) team will be available to answer questions about the temporary schedule and the big move.



During the busy July Fourth holiday travel week, we safely carried 947,652 customers and 352,076 vehicles from June 28 through July 8!

With 12 of our 22 vessels at least 40 years old, [service disruptions](#) are more common due to routine maintenance requirements and unexpected repairs. In addition, our busiest time of the year is approaching (usually late July through early August). There will be challenges this summer, but I have great confidence that our team will continue to move our customers safely.

Fleet Achievement Award presented to *Tacoma*

The *Tacoma* engine room crews were presented with our 2018 Fleet Achievement Award last week for scoring the highest in our fleet in five performance categories: Trip cancellations, assigned days, trip count, sailing hours and nautical miles sailed.

Last year, *Tacoma* made 7,280 trips, ran for 3,641 sailing hours in operation, traveled 62,576 nautical miles and missed only two sailings due to mechanical failure. Thank you to all of our engine room crews and Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility personnel for your around-the-clock hard work to provide our customers with safe, reliable service!

Our staff will be in our Seattle terminal and on the boats through July to provide information about big changes in August.

Vashon terminal repairs may affect vehicle traffic

Work to repair two damaged piles under the vehicle exit lanes at our Vashon terminal will begin tomorrow, July 12. From daylight through midafternoon, contractors will be working within the area currently coned off, reducing vehicle offloading to one lane. Then on Monday, July 15, vehicle loading and offloading may be adjusted during pile driving. Work may continue on Tuesday, July 16, if needed.



Crews repairing piles under Vashon terminal will work around sailings to minimize disruptions to traffic, but may need to close lanes.

Update on new Clinton pickup and drop-off area

The [new pickup and drop-off area](#) on Ferry Dock Road near the Clinton terminal is coming along! Crews are making the last concrete pour for the retaining wall. The next stage of the project will focus on rebuilding the roadway, including drainage, sidewalks and



Assistant Engineer Richard Ward, Oiler Conrad Russell, Alternate Staff Chief Engineer Dan O'Reilly and Oiler Jesse Hansen with 2018 Fleet Achievement Award.

45 years of WSF service!

I had the pleasure of being on hand when Contracts Coordinator Eileen "Sam" Parks was presented with a 45-year service award late last month. The rare work milestone comes with a ship's wheel and certificate. Sam started working at WSF in 1973 in the accounting department. She then took a position as a clerk typist in 1975 and purchasing agent in 1979, before moving into her current role in 2000. Congratulations and thank you Sam for your service and dedication over the years!

traffic signal upgrades. We hope to complete the project next month.



View of the future pickup and drop-off area on Ferry Dock Road (top) from Columbia Beach Drive (bottom), looking south.

New terminal engineering director

We have a new terminal engineering director! On July 1, David Sowers took over my previous role and is now overseeing our largest major terminal construction projects – [Colman Dock in Seattle](#) and [Mukilteo](#). He will also work to implement our asset management plan strategies for maintenance, preservation and improvement needs of terminal facilities. David comes to us from the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, where he was deputy administrator for engineering and program management overseeing \$3.3 billion in projects.



David Sowers has been with WSDOT since 1999 and



previously worked as a project engineer at the Ferries Division.

Finance and Administration Director Rick Singer, Assistant Secretary Amy Scarton, Contracts & Legal Services Director Tim McGuigan and I celebrate with Eileen "Sam" Parks.

Comments wanted on WSTC's proposed fares

The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) is looking for public input on its [proposed ferry fare increases](#) over the next two years. You can submit your comments via their [online open house](#), email or in writing through Monday, July 29, as well as in person at the commission's final hearing on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

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