



We're now in our busiest time of the year!

The third weekend of July usually kicks off our busiest time of the year, and as expected, this year was no exception. From Friday, July 19, through Monday, July 22, we carried nearly 380,000 customers -- our [highest weekend ridership so far in 2019](#) and our busiest weekend since Aug. 17-20, 2018. With more sunny, warm weather and more big summer events ahead, expect similar weekend ridership numbers (with long lines at many of our terminals) through Labor Day! Just for comparison, we average about 200,000 customers during our slowest winter weekends.



Sunshine and several major events combined to make last weekend (July 19-22) our busiest of 2019 so far, beating out June 28-July 1 by more than 25,000 customers.

Elwha to pass through Ballard Locks Monday, July 29

July 25, 2019

Fall vehicle reservations open Tuesday, July 30

The first round of [vehicle reservations](#) for our fall sailings will go live at 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 30. If you're planning ahead for trips on our Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney, BC or Port Townsend/Coupeville routes between Sept. 29 and Jan. 4, 2020 – set your alarms. Don't plan quite that far ahead? Don't worry! While the first tier opens Monday, the second tier of reservations opens two weeks before each specific sailing and the final 30 percent of space on each sailing becomes available two days before.



Planning a fall getaway? The first tier of vehicle reservations for Sept. 29-Jan. 4, 2020, will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 30.

Closure of staging lane on Fauntleroy Way

Get ready for a rare sight as one of our iconic ferries navigates Seattle's Hiram M. Chittenden Locks! It's not every day a vessel as wide as a six-lane highway squeezes through the 80-foot-wide locks in Ballard. That's not much wiggle room! On Monday, July 29, tugboats will guide the [144-car Super class ferry Elwha](#) from our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility on Bainbridge Island into the Lake Washington Ship Canal. It will then pass through the locks, under the Ballard, Fremont and Aurora bridges en route to Lake Union Drydock, where it will undergo maintenance on its steel deck. We are still finalizing the schedule, so check our [@wsferries Twitter page](#) tomorrow, July 26, to find out what time *Elwha* will pass through the locks!



Sealth was our last ferry to pass through Ballard Locks in July and September 2016 for a variety of maintenance work at Lake Union Drydock.

Presentation to Island County officials

Our new Terminal Engineering Director David Sowers went to Whidbey Island on Wednesday to provide updates on construction projects at our [Mukilteo](#) and [Clinton](#) terminals to the [Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization \(IRTPO\)](#) Executive Board at its monthly meeting. The Board is comprised of Island County commissioners, Whidbey Island mayors, port commissioners, as well as a representatives from Island Transit, WSDOT and Naval Air Station Whidbey. IRTPO was formed in 2016 to serve as a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and bring into focus regional transportation challenges and opportunities.

at Lincoln Park

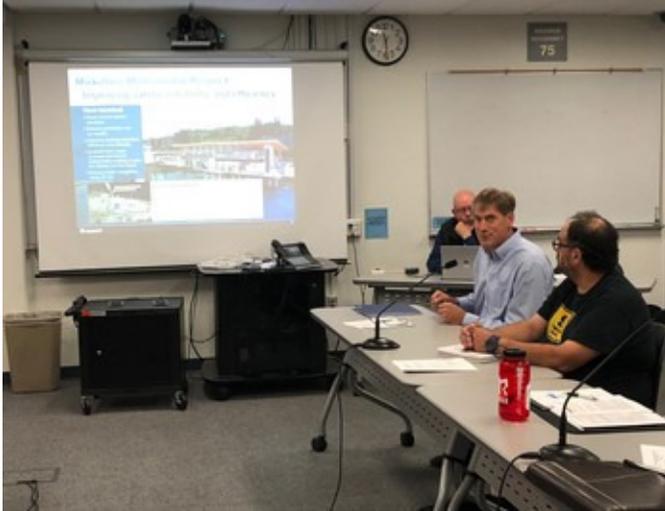
If you're planning to drive onto a ferry at our Fauntleroy terminal this weekend, plan for potential delays getting to the tollbooth. We have learned that the city of Seattle has permitted a [Sesame Street Road Trip event](#) to stage equipment on Fauntleroy Way in front of Lincoln Park from 6 a.m. tomorrow, July 26, through 6 a.m. Sunday, July 28. This may block the ferry staging lane between Southwest Kenyon and Southwest Monroe streets, possibly leading to extensive backups.

Point Defiance terminal road work

A [road project](#) to increase the number of holding lanes at our Point Defiance terminal and repave North Pearl Street/State Route 163 may start as early as Monday, July 29. Plan for possible delays from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday nights. Flaggers will give priority to offloading ferry traffic. Tollbooth access will not be restricted during sailing times.



Work to expand the holding lanes at our Point Defiance terminal from two lanes to four will begin as soon as Monday, July 29.



Terminal Engineering Director David Sowers presents to the IRTPO Executive Board Wednesday about our construction projects that affect Island County ferry riders.

Last weekend to comment on WSTC's proposed fares

You have four more days to provide input on the Washington State Transportation Commission's (WSTC) [proposed ferry fare increases](#) over the next two years. You can submit comments via their [online open house](#), email or in writing through Monday, July 29, or in person at the commission's final hearing on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Puget Sound Regional Council's Board Room (1011 Western Ave., Suite 500, Seattle).

Nicole McIntosh

Chief of Staff, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Vehicle restrictions possible next week on Mukilteo/Clinton route

Due to extreme low tides, we may not be able to load vehicles more than 50-feet long, with low ground clearance, or with long rear overhangs on our Mukilteo/Clinton route during the following dates and times next week:

Wednesday, July 31
9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 2
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

While extreme low tides affect the Mukilteo/Clinton route in the summer only, they cause [vehicle restrictions at our Vashon and Point Defiance terminals](#), as well as cancellations on our [Port Townsend/Coupeville route](#) on a regular basis.



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
