

2010 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program Update



**Board of
County Commissioners**
Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman
Sharon D. Dillon
Ron Wesen

Interim Public Works Director
Tom Ballard

Ferry Operations Manager
Ron Panzero

Introduction

This publication outlines the Guemes Island Ferry Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program projects scheduled for 2010. It is designed to provide an outline for the operations projects taking place throughout the next year. The purpose of this publication is to inform the public of the projects and their effects on regular ferry opera-

FERRY MANAGER'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is always a good time of year for reflection, evaluation and planning. Did we do a good job? How can we improve? What needs to get done next year? In thinking about these things, I can't help but be impressed by those I work with at Skagit County Public Works. I owe a great deal to those I am surrounded by.



Ron Panzero, Ferry Operations Manager

Starting with the Ferry crew and their dedication to serving our customers and keeping the daily Ferry operation in top form. The Project Managers who work tirelessly to keep up with all the changes I throw their way. The Administrative Assistants who pay attention to the details and make the Ferry operations a success. Thank you all for a great year, and I look forward to next year's challenges.

As we move into next year's projects and three-person crews, I would like to remind everyone of our loading policy. **At one minute prior to sailing or at the direction of the Captain, the deckhand shall close the vehicle traffic gate. Once the gate has been closed, all vehicle sales shall cease. The purser shall then collect fares for the remaining walk-on passengers and allow them to board.**

If you arrive during the above-stated departure process and the Ferry is there but the gate is down, you are considered to be late, and the gate will not be reopened to provide for late boarding. Honking your horn, flashing your lights or yelling obscenities will not get you onboard the ferry for that departure. Please give yourself plenty of time to catch your desired sailing.

Finally, Skagit County Resolution R20080556 establishes certain criteria for Ferry runs. Specifically, no "double runs" or "clean-up runs" shall occur after the last scheduled sailing. Please note that if you miss the last scheduled run and need an additional run, your options are:

1. \$100 extended run which occurs immediately after the last scheduled sailing before the bridges are stowed, or
2. \$315 Guemes Special which occurs after the bridges have been stowed and/or a crew must be called back.



2010 PROJECTS

Wingwall Maintenance and Dolphin Replacement

The Guemes Island Ferry Wingwalls, known as the wooden bumpers that cradle the Ferry while docked, will undergo maintenance at both the Anacortes and Guemes Island docks in January 2010. Skagit County will remove and replace all creosote timbers with ACZA treated timbers which will be faced with UHMW plastic so as to minimize wear. All treated wood will meet Best Management Practices in order to prolong the life of the wingwalls and minimize the leaching of contaminants. The chains that hold the wingwalls to the support piles will also be replaced. This project will have little to no impact on Ferry service.

Dolphins, known as wood and/or steel pole groupings, are used to guide the Ferry during docking procedures. In 2004, due to age and deterioration, Skagit County removed and replaced four dolphins, two at the Guemes landing and two at the Anacortes landing. In 2010, Public Works will remove and replace two more dolphins at the Guemes Island landing with new, steel dolphins faced with HDPE plastic. The project will begin in January 2010, and all in-water work should be completed by February 15.

This project is part of Skagit County's long-term Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program. This project helps bring Skagit County in compliance with Washington State legislative mandates to mitigate creosote contamination in Puget Sound by 2018.

Ferry Dock Rehabilitation Project

The Guemes Island Ferry docks at both Anacortes and Guemes Island do not meet Washington State sufficiency standards for bridges. Both

2010 Project Timeline

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wingwall/Dolphin	Active	Active										
Dock Rehabilitation									Active	Active		
Terminal Building		Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active				
Annual Haul-out										Active		
Asphalt Overlay											Active	
Path Relocation				Active	Active							
Anacortes 6th Street			Active	Active	Active							

terminals are in need of girder replacement as there is significant corrosion, cracking, and spalling from years of saltwater exposure. Girders are used to support the docks and without repair, corrosion will continue to weaken the girders making the docks unsafe.

In September 2010, Skagit County will replace the current Guemes terminal girders with new, steel girders and will also replace the concrete roadway with a new, grated roadway. The concrete support, located where the transfer span meets the roadway, will be removed and replaced in kind due to cracked and spalling concrete. Additionally, we will install a new glass passenger waiting area at the northwest corner of the Guemes Island Dock.

In Anacortes, Public Works will remove the terminal roadway from the south end of the current terminal building to the transfer span to the north, replace nine corroded concrete girders with new steel girders, and pour a new concrete deck. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2010.

Skagit County Public Works has received \$2.3 million in grant funding from the Bridge Replacement Advisory Committee and the Ferry Discretionary Board for this project. The County will provide a 20 percent match for each grant received. For more information, contact Jennifer Swanson at: jennifers@co.skagit.wa.us

Ferry Terminal Building

Skagit County will construct a new Ferry terminal building on the Anacortes side of the Guemes Island Ferry run. The larger, two-story building will consolidate multiple buildings into one and will be constructed south of the current terminal building. Construction will begin in late January-February 2010 and will be completed by mid August. During construction, the current building will remain fully operational until the new terminal building opens at which point the current building will be removed. With the exception of five disabled parking spaces, there will be limited parking available near the dock during construction. Funding will be provided by the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. For more information, contact David Walde at: davidw@co.skagit.wa.us

Annual Ferry Boat Haul-Out

To improve reliability, lower costs, and protect capital investment, Skagit County has adopted a Maintenance Program that includes an annual dry-docking of the Guemes Island Ferry. The normal spring dry-docking schedule has moved to October 2010 to coordinate with the Ferry Dock Rehabilitation Project. With this schedule, the Ferry will be out of service only once in 2010 which will minimize passenger inconvenience. This will also save about \$40,000 in passenger vessel fees. During the dry-docking, we will remove and re-



place replace one main engine, conduct ultrasound readings on the hull to determine hull thickness and life expectancy, sandblast and paint the hull, paint void spaces and superstructure, and perform other small maintenance items.

Asphalt Overlay Project

The Asphalt Overlay Project will commence once all terminal-site work, including the terminal building construction and dock rehabilitation project, is completed. The Overlay, which will resurface the northernmost point of I Avenue north to the steel bridge span, will also cover the width of the entire parking lot at the dock. All Ferry lanes and parking stalls will also be re-stripped.

Pedestrian Path Relocation

In August of 2008, Skagit County negotiated an easement with Mr. Jack Hill who owns the property between the County's K Avenue parking lot and the railroad parking lot. This gave the County permanent access between the two lots. The current pathway leased from Anchor Cove Marina will remain open while the new pathway is constructed. The new pathway parallels the old path on the opposite side of the fence between the marina and Mr. Hill's property. This project will begin in April and should take approximately two weeks to complete once construction begins.

For information on the above projects, contact Ron Panzero at: ronap2@co.skagit.wa.us

Anacortes 6th Street Project

The City of Anacortes has received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which will finance a road improvement project of 6th Street between K and I Avenues beginning March 2010. The improvements will include curb, gutter, and sidewalk reconstruction, paving, and Ferry lane striping. The 6th Street project will coordinate with other Guemes Ferry construction projects in order to minimize impacts to ridership. Construction is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2010. Any questions related to this project should be directed to the City of Anacortes. Please contact Steve Lange at: stavel@cityofanacortes.org



For more information on the Guemes Island Ferry 2010 Capital Improvement Program, visit www.skagitcounty.net/ferry or contact Ron Panzero at: ronap2@co.skagit.wa.us

Ridership Impacts

How will I be impacted?

The Dolphin Replacement and Wingwall Maintenance Projects should have little to no impact on Ferry service. As the project progresses and assessments for weather and tide become a factor, service may be temporarily interrupted to enable the contractor to meet the in-water work deadline of February 15, 2010. Public Works will provide as much notice as possible should this occur.

The Terminal Building Project will eliminate all parking on the dock area through August with the exception of five disabled parking spaces at the southwest corner of the lot. This project should not affect scheduled Ferry service.

The Dock Rehabilitation Project will have the most impact on ridership. Arrow Launch Services will provide passenger-only service for approximately one month; a temporary Ferry sailing schedule is being considered and may run every 45 minutes with the possibility of running two passenger ferries during peak periods on the normal sailing schedule. The temporary changes to the Ferry schedule are due to the length of the crossing time which will go from a temporary dock west of the Guemes Island ferry dock to Cap Sante Marina D dock. Several sites including Anchor Cover Marina and other port of Anacortes properties were considered; however, these other locations required significant improvements in order to meet vessel and passenger needs. Cap Sante Marina was chosen because of its parking availability, cost, and current ADA

compliance. The cost of using other sites was estimated at \$70,000. The cost of using Cap Sante Marina is less than \$3,000.

Anacortes

Cap Sante Marina will provide parking adjacent to D dock where passenger service will be provided during the restricted 30-day period. Cap Sante is also fully ADA compliant and provides disabled parking. Cap Sante Marina is located within one block of SKAT service which will provide additional transportation service needs. Skagit County will also work with Anacortes School District to coordinate travel for students between Cap Sante Marina and local schools.

Guemes

An additional ten disabled parking spots will be available next to the Guemes dock. All other parking will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Emergency Services

During the Dock Rehabilitation Project, emergency services will be coordinated between Arrow Launch Services and the Guemes and Anacortes Fire Departments.

Public Services

Garbage and propane services will occur on the last day of vehicular travel. After this point, Skagit County will provide two additional barge service days in order to collect garbage and provide propane services to Guemes Island during the approximate 30-day outage.

Related Stories

Ferry Rates

The Skagit County Commissioners did not increase fares for the 2010 calendar year. All existing 10 and 25-trip commuter books, therefore, may be used through December 31, 2010. All multi-ride tickets purchased since November 16, 2009, will be stamped with an expiration date of December 31, 2010. All other rules related to ticket use will remain in effect.

Bio-diesel Program

Skagit County was unable to secure grant funding for the continuation of the Guemes Ferry Bio-diesel program. In an effort to lower

expenditures and decrease the overall budget, the Bio-diesel program will be discontinued in 2010.

More for Less

With a tightened 2010 budget, Skagit County is committed to accomplishing more, with less. To do this, the Guemes Ferry operation will permanently operate with a three-person crew. In addition, any steel piles that are not bent from the dolphin replacement project will be recycled. Preliminary plans may use these piles at the Sinclair Island dock which is in need of repair. This will be environmentally sustainable and cost efficient.

Skagit County Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273