

Skagit County Public Works Guemes Island Ferry

Spring 2010 Maintenance Program Update



**Board of
County Commissioners**
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Interim Public Works Director
Tom Ballard
Interim Ferry Operations Manager
Rachel Beck

FERRY MANAGER'S CORNER

I regret to inform you that I have resigned from my position as Senior Master Ferry Division Manager for the Skagit County Public Works Department. My last day of employment was May 3, 2010. I have accepted a position with the King County Department of Transportation, Marine Division, and look forward to the new direction of my career even though I will miss my job and Skagit County.



Ron Panzero, Former Ferry Manager

Thank you for the provided support and opportunities over the last 22 years. I have truly enjoyed my tenure with Skagit County and the exceptional colleagues I have worked with. I wish to thank the ferry crew and everyone at Public Works for all of the support and help throughout the past years. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Guemes Island and I wish everyone and Skagit County all the best. I do hope our paths cross again in the future.

Welcome, Rachel Beck, Interim Ferry Manager

I am honored to step into the role as Interim Ferry Manager and am looking forward to the challenges ahead. I am a Captain on the Guemes Island Ferry and have been with Skagit County Public Works for three and a half years. This is certainly an exciting time to take over ferry operations as several projects are in the works to improve our facilities as evidenced by the construction you will see taking place as you approach the Anacortes terminal. With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone to allow plenty of time to get in line, park, or walk to catch your desired sailing.



Rachel Beck, Interim Ferry Manager

In an effort to adhere to our sailing schedule, our loading policy in Anacortes remains the same: ticket sales will cease one minute prior to scheduled sailing times at which point the gate will close. If you arrive during this process and the gate is closed, it is too late for you to catch the ferry and there are no provisions for late boarding. I would also like to remind everyone that the K Avenue parking lot is a 72-hour lot and is intended for those walking regularly with a need to park for a few days at a time. Periodically, we will be chalking tires in order to respond to recent complaints of cars left in the lot for extended amounts of time. It is not our intention to start towing vehicles; we are simply asking that you be considerate and find somewhere else to leave your vehicle if you need to park your car for more than 72 hours. Those who use this lot everyday will surely appreciate it.

2010 PROJECTS

Wingwall Maintenance and Dolphin Replacement

Skagit County successfully removed and replaced all creosote timbers with ACZA treated timbers on both the Anacortes and Guemes Island docks. The new timbers will prolong the life of the wingwalls and minimize the leaching of contaminants. Skagit County also removed and replaced two dolphins at the Guemes Island landing with new, steel dolphins faced with HPDE plastic. This project was completed on-schedule and brought Skagit County into compliance with Washington State legislative mandates to mitigate creosote contamination in Puget Sound by 2018.



Anacortes 6th Street Project

The City of Anacortes is currently working on 6th Street road improvements between K and I avenues. Improvements include curb, gutter, and sidewalk reconstruction, paving, and Ferry lane striping. While the City of Anacortes has delayed the project by two weeks in order to complete additional work, 6th Street will be open by Memorial Day weekend. In addition, the City of Anacortes is working with Skagit County to help alleviate parking concerns by providing 13 additional parking spots on the north side of 6th Street. Please direct any questions related to this project to the City of Anacortes; contact Steve Lange at stevel@cityofanacortes.org.



Ferry Terminal Building

Construction of the new ferry terminal building in Anacortes is currently underway. We will complete the framing for the building by May 7 at which point subcontractors will begin the process of installing electricity, lighting, and plumbing before the building is insulated and sheetrocked. The roofers and siding contractor will be working on the exterior of the building to seal the building from the elements. The project started on time and is on-schedule for completion by early September 2010. The building is projected to be open and in use by mid-September 2010. As part of the project, the old terminal building will be removed upon occupancy of the new building. The terminal building project is funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds totaling \$750,000. To date, this project has employed 127 individuals.

Skagit County also installed a camera on the existing terminal building which sends snapshot images of the ferry landing every 30 seconds. The camera will move to the new building upon its completion; it is viewable at skagitcounty.net/ferry.

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 improvement, 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. During the dry-docking, we will remove and replace one main engine, conduct ultrasound readings on the hull to determine hull thickness and life expectancy, paint void spaces and portions of the superstructure, perform other small maintenance items, and complete our USCG dry-dock credit. The haul-out will take place sometime between October 4 and October 29 and will take up to 15 days to complete; we will provide more information regarding exact dates as the project nears. Ferry ridership will be affected during this time; however, the passenger-only service, provided by Arrow-Launch, will be available. For more information, contact Rachel Beck at rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us.

Asphalt Overlay Project

The asphalt overlay project will commence once all terminal-site work, including terminal building construction and the dock rehabilitation project, is complete. 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.

Ferry Dock Rehabilitation Project

Due to permitting issues, Skagit County has pushed back the Ferry dock rehabilitation project until Spring 2011. The Guemes Island Ferry docks

at both Anacortes and Guemes Island do not meet Washington State sufficiency rating standards for bridges. As a result, both terminals are in need of girder replacement due to significant corrosion, cracking, and spalling from years of saltwater exposure.

Although construction has been pushed back, some in-water work will take place before February 15, 2011. The Ferry Dock Rehabilitation will not affect Ferry ridership until Spring 2011. The project is expected to take 8-10 weeks to complete once construction begins during which a passenger ferry will be in service. We will provide more information regarding the Ferry dock rehabilitation project in the Fall 2010 newsletter. Skagit County has received over \$1.5 million in BRAC funding as well as \$736,000 from the Ferry Boat Discretionary for this project. For more information, contact Jennifer Swanson at jennifers@co.skagit.wa.us.

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. In August 2010, Skagit County will construct a new pathway along the new easement between the two parking lots. With the exception of about one week, while concrete is poured, the current pathway will remain open until the new pathway is constructed; pathway construction is expected to take about three weeks to complete. For more information, contact Mike Farthing at mikef@co.skagit.wa.us.

Ticketing

Skagit County is in the process of soliciting vendors to submit proposals for one ticket-vending machine on the Anacortes side of the Guemes Island Ferry run. It is anticipated that the credit/debit-only machine will dispense all types of ticket media and will be in place by September 2010.

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.

More Information

For more information on the Guemes Island Ferry 2010 Capital Improvement Program visit skagitcounty.net/ferry or contact Rachel Beck at rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us.



SUMMER SEASON

With the busy summer season approaching, please remember to give yourself plenty of time to catch your desired sailing, especially on the weekends. In order to help ferry operations run smoothly, please keep these few tips in mind:

- Arrive early
- Be in your vehicles at least 10 minutes prior to your sailing time
- Have checks ready and made payable to "Skagit County"
- If paying with a credit card, please come to the office when you see the boat pulling into the Anacortes slip

Rate Increase

The increased summer rates are in effect from May 20 to September 10. Visit skagitcounty.net/ferry or linetime.org to view the summer sailing schedule and rates.


Please note that the price for frequent user passes remains the same year-round. Purchasing these passes during the summer can result in significant savings for those who will use the punch-card before its expiration date. Also, if you frequently ride bikes during the summer, consider purchasing a walk-on commuter punch-card as you will not be charged for your bicycle.

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. This also means that when the boat is in transit, nobody will be in the terminal building to sell tickets or answer questions. The best time to purchase a pass is immediately after the boat arrives in Anacortes as this is when the purser will be in the office. If you are in line and wish to purchase a pass, you will need to come to the office to do so.

2010-2011 Project Timeline

Projects	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Dock Rehabilitation														
Terminal Building														
Annual Haul-out														
Asphalt Overlay														
Path Relocation														
Anacortes 6th Street														

 Project dates in which Ferry ridership will **not** be affected

 Project dates in which Ferry ridership **will** be affected

* NON HAUL-OUT MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

The annual haul-out will only take two weeks to complete in October and the dock rehabilitation project dates are subject to change



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