



GUEMES ISLAND FERRY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



Hello, Summer!

We've got some sunny, warm weather incoming this weekend, which means the ferry will be extra packed with visitors to visit the island. Purchase your tickets ahead of time on our mobile app or website to save time at the ferry and arrive early to ensure you make it onboard your preferred sailing!

Bulletin Board Updates

Second 11:15 a.m. Runs Not Guaranteed

Please remember that the second 11:15 a.m. run is not guaranteed and only occurs at the discretion of the on-duty ferry captain. The mid-day break ensures our staff receive required lunch breaks and offers time for the crew to run safety drills and perform any necessary maintenance. We ask that you do not rely on the second 11:15 a.m. run being offered and to please plan to arrive early if you need to reach the island before lunchtime.

Ferry Office Phone Upgrade

The phone lines at the Anacortes terminal office will be upgraded next week and will be unavailable from 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 17, through 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 18. Ferry service, including emergency ferry service dispatched by 911, will not be impacted by the outage. If any riders have an emergency, please dial 911 for assistance.

July 4th Sailing Schedule

July 4th falls on a Saturday this year, so the ferry will operate on its' usual peak Saturday schedule. The ferry sailing schedule can be found on the ferry website.



The Anacortes ferry business office will be **closed on Friday, July 3rd**, in observance of the holiday.

2027 Drydock Period

The ferry is required by the U.S. Coast Guard to undergo a drydock in March 2027. Please be advised the car ferry will be out of service early next spring. We plan to offer passenger service during this time. More details will be shared in early 2027.

Upcoming Community Meetings, 2027 Ferry Fare Schedule, and County Commissioner Work Sessions

Budget season at Skagit County will officially kick off on July 13th with our annual budget call. We have several upcoming meetings, public comment periods, and work sessions that the community can join and provide feedback. See the schedule below for upcoming events to keep an eye out for! More details will be shared throughout the summer and early fall.

August 4: The draft ferry fare revenue target report and draft 2027 ferry fare schedule will be posted to the ferry website for public review.

August 4 – August 18: Early public comment period for the ferry fare revenue target report and 2027 fare schedule. These early comments will be shared with the Commissioners at the August 18 televised presentation.

August 6: The County Commissioners will host a work session from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the draft ferry fare revenue target report and proposed 2027 ferry fare schedule. There will be no public comment taken at this meeting. Interested residents may listen to the conversation in-person or via Zoom

August 18: The County Commissioners will host a televised presentation from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the draft ferry fare revenue target report and proposed 2027 ferry fare schedule. There will be no public comment taken at this meeting. Interested residents may join in-person or via Zoom, or watch via TV21.

August 19: Public Works staff will host the annual community meeting on Guemes Island from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to discuss and answer questions regarding the 2027 ferry fare revenue target report, fare schedule, and ongoing projects. More details on location will be shared soon.

September 3 – September 22: Formal written public comment period on the proposed 2027 ferry fare schedule.

September 22: The County Commissioners will host a public hearing on the proposed 2027 ferry fare schedule from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. You may join the hearing and provide comments in-person or via Zoom. The hearing will be televised on TV21, and if you choose to watch it on TV, you will not be able to provide public comments.

October: The Commissioners will host the annual series of budget work sessions throughout October. The schedule has not been set yet, but the dates will be shared when our budget call is

released later this summer. We will keep you updated on when Public Works will be discussing its budget.

October 20: The Commissioners will consider adoption of the 2027 ferry fare schedule at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

December 7: The Commissioners will host a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. to consider testimony on the 2027 budget. There will be a published written comment period for the draft 2027 budget.

December 14: The Commissioners will consider adoption of the 2027 budget at 2:00 p.m.

Please be advised, these dates and times may change due to the Commissioners' schedule. If meetings are changed, we will send you an updated schedule.

If you have any questions about the upcoming meetings, please email ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us.



Anacortes Bridge Apron

Apron Flaps Project Out for Bid

The Ferry Division will be replacing the flaps on the Anacortes and Guemes Island bridge aprons. These are the parts of the bridge at the very end that raise up and down to meet the ferry and help load and unload cars and passengers.

Skagit County Public Works has released a [Request for Bids](#) to solicit a contractor for the Apron Flap Replacement Project. The bid opening date is June 15. We anticipate construction will happen later this summer or early fall.

We expect this project to take five working days to finish. We are working on plans to offer passenger-only service to Guemes Island while the Anacortes flaps are being replaced. Unfortunately, while the Guemes flaps are being replaced, we will not be able to offer ferry service because the bridge on the island side will be unavailable.

This is a maintenance project to replace the flaps due to age, corrosion, and wear. The aprons still need to be replaced, as they were constructed in 1979-1980. A capital project for the full replacement of the aprons will also include recoating the bridges and updating the hydraulic and electrical systems at both terminals. The county has received a federal grant for \$5.79M. This year, the county will contract a design and environmental consultant, with construction possibly by 2028.

Ferry Replacement Project

Temporary Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Report

The group held its eighth and final meeting in June to vote on a recommendation to the County Commissioners. Meeting materials and summaries will be available on the [TAG website](#).

The TAG is developing its final report and presentation for the Commissioners. A televised presentation to the County Commissioners on the TAG recommendations has been scheduled for July 7th at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Contact Information for Customer Support and Services

Guemes Island Ferry Business Office

500 I Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221

Phone: (360) 416-1466

Email: ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us

Website: www.skagitcounty.net/ferry

The ferry business office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note, our phone number has recently changed. If you call our business office outside business hours, or if there is no answer during business hours, please leave us a voicemail. We return voicemails by the next business day.

Feedback? We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, ideas, or feedback on our monthly newsletter,

Jenn Rogers, Communications and Engagement Manager, would love to hear from you!

You can e-mail her at jrogers@co.skagit.wa.us