



Ferry Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 22, 2025

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Guemes Ferry Weekend Update

Upcoming Maintenance

The ferry division will be installing nonskid traction material on the docks during the lunch break on Wednesday, August 27th. This means there will be no extra 11:15 a.m. run.

Payment Service Down August 30th from 9:00pm to 11:00pm

The online payment service for purchasing ferry tickets will be down for scheduled maintenance on Saturday, August 30th, from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. You will not be able to purchase tickets online or on the mobile app during those two hours, but tickets will be available to purchase in-person at the Anacortes ferry office.

Guemes Island Skagit Transit Service Now On Demand

On May 28, 2025, Skagit Transit announced the launch of a pilot bus service on Guemes Island, timed to begin after the return of the Guemes Island vehicle ferry from its scheduled haul-out. Since then, ridership has grown steadily, and community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

In response to rider input, starting on August 11th, **the Guemes Island pilot has transitioned from a reservation-only system to a convenient, demand-response model.**

To request a ride real-time, call **360-757-4433** during business hours, Monday through Saturday, and ask for **“Guemes Dispatch.”**

Service Schedule

The Guemes Island bus will continue operating Monday through Saturday for the remainder of the six-month pilot:

- **Monday–Friday:** Departs Anacortes on the 6:30 a.m. ferry and returns on the 5:30 p.m. ferry.
- **Saturday:** Departs Anacortes on the 8:00 a.m. ferry and returns on the 5:30 p.m. ferry.

This demand-response model allows real-time pickup and drop-off requests on a first-come, first-served basis. Service is available on most major roads on Guemes Island. A map of accessible roads is available here: [*Guemes Island Pilot Service*](#).

Pilot Evaluation

Ridership will be monitored throughout the pilot to determine its success. If usage is lower than expected, the pilot may end early. Strong ridership could lead to consideration of permanent service on the island.

Fares & Payment

This service is open to the public and follows Skagit Transit's standard fare structure:

- **Regular fare:** \$1.00
- **Reduced fare:** \$0.50 (available to individuals with disabilities and riders aged 65+)
- **Youth (18 and under):** Ride free on all Skagit Transit services

Fares may be paid with cash or through **Umo**, Skagit Transit's electronic fare payment system.

For more details about the Guemes Island service or Umo fare payment, visit the **Skagit Station Customer Service Desk** at 105 E. Kincaid Street, Mount Vernon, WA, or call **360-757-4433** (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.).”

Draft 2026 Ferry Budget and Fare Schedule Proposal Now Online

In case you missed it last week! The 2026 ferry budget documents and draft fare schedule proposal have been posted to the [ferry website](#). The following documents are now available for public review and comment:

- [2025 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report](#)
 - This document also includes the proposed 2026 ferry fare schedule.
- [2025 Ferry Budget Monitoring Report \(January to June 2025\)](#)
- [2024 Ferry Budget Monitoring Report](#)
- [2024 Ferry Expenditure Report](#)
- [2024 Ferry Revenue Report](#)

The ferry division will be taking early public comment on these documents to ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us (please use subject line: “Ferry 2026 Fare Proposal” and please include your comments in the body of the email rather than by attachment. You can also mail comments to 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 ATT: Ferry 2026 Fare Proposal.

The ferry division will be meeting with the County Commissioners and presenting this information over the next few weeks. These meetings are open to the community; however, public comment will only be taken during the public hearing. Additional meetings will be scheduled and added here at a future date.

Date	Time	Meeting	Description
September 9 th	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Non-televised Work Session	Initial review with County Commissioners of budget and ferry fare documents.
September 16 th	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Televised Presentation	Ferry staff will present the proposed ferry fare schedule and fare setting methodology.
October 21 st	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Public Hearing	Open public hearing to take feedback on 2026 ferry fare schedule.

The public can join meetings either in-person in the Commissioner's Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place, or virtually via Zoom at the link below. The September 16th televised presentation and October 21st public hearing will also be available to watch on TV21.

[Join Zoom Meeting HERE](#)

You can also join a Commissioner meeting remotely by dialing **1-253-215-8782**

Meeting ID: 871 8000 1980 Passcode: 143573

Background on Ferry Fare Methodology

On July 27, 2023, the Skagit County Commissioners adopted Resolution #[20230152](#), amended by Resolution #[R20250015](#), which sets the ferry fare revenue target methodology, including the formula used to calculate fares each year. The County Commissioners stated they intend to reach a 65% fare box recovery target by December 31, 2028, which requires ferry fares to increase steadily from 2023 – 2028 to reach that target.

The ferry division is directed to prepare an annual report pursuant to the revenue target formula found in Exhibit A of Resolution #20230152, amended by R20250015, and recommend a ferry rate schedule for the upcoming calendar year with an estimate of revenues based on those rates. The methodology for fare calculations uses the past two years of actual expenditures, the current year's approved budget, and the next two year's projected expenditures using cost escalation factors to establish the new ferry fare schedule.

Anacortes Ferry Line is Still Down

The phone line to the Anacortes ferry office is still down and will remain out of service for a while longer. We need to switch our phones over to a new system entirely in order to restore service. We are working on this effort as quickly as possible and looking for interim solutions to help customers over the phone. In the meantime, please call 360-416-1400 or email (preferable) ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us
