



Ferry Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15, 2025

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Guemes Ferry Weekend Update

Draft 2026 Ferry Budget and Fare Schedule Proposal Now Online

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.

Upcoming Maintenance

The ferry division will be refueling the vessel during the lunch break on Tuesday, August 19th. This means there will be no extra 11:15 a.m. run. After the drydock period, we had been fueling on a different schedule than posted earlier this year. The official fueling schedule has now been updated on our [website](#).

Buying Youth Tickets

We had previously asked for all passengers, including those 18 and under, to have a ticket purchased prior to arrival at the terminal. We have updated that policy now for youth passengers. If your passenger is 18 or under, they qualify under the Washington state “youth ride free” program and **do not need to purchase a ticket prior to sailing**. After arrival at the terminal, a purser will scan through the youth ticket, and we can provide a physical copy to the rider if preferred.

PLEASE NOTE: If the youth is the primary driver of the vehicle boarding the ferry, they will still need to purchase an adult vehicle and passenger ticket which corresponds to the type of vehicle they are operating.

This information has been updated on the [‘buy tickets’ ferry website](#) and on the [‘about the ferry’ website](#).
