

# Guemes Island Ferry **Virtual Community Meeting** Jan. 28, 2026, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



Michael See, Director  
Public Works Department  
Skagit County

# Agenda

- Opening Remarks & Introductions (10 min)
- Ferry Ticketing Updates (5 min)
- 2026 Ferry Maintenance Projects (10 min)
- Ferry Replacement Project TAG Update (10 min)
- 2026 Ferry Capital Projects (10 min)
- Discussion/Comments/Questions (45 min)



# Housekeeping Items

- 2026 Meeting will be held this summer – either in July or early August.
- Thank you for all your submitted questions!
- Few topics we cannot cover:
  - Legal Appeals regarding the 2025 and 2026 Fare Setting

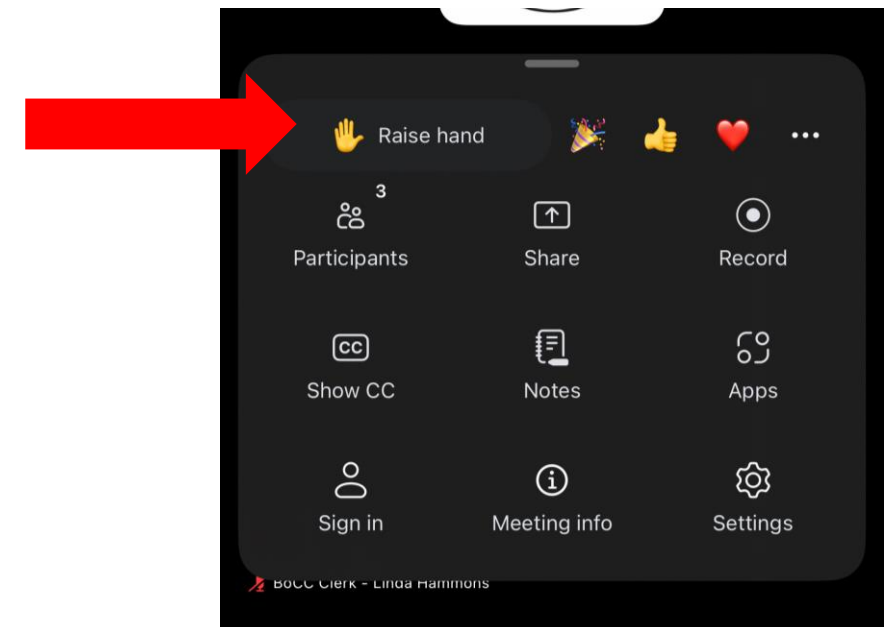
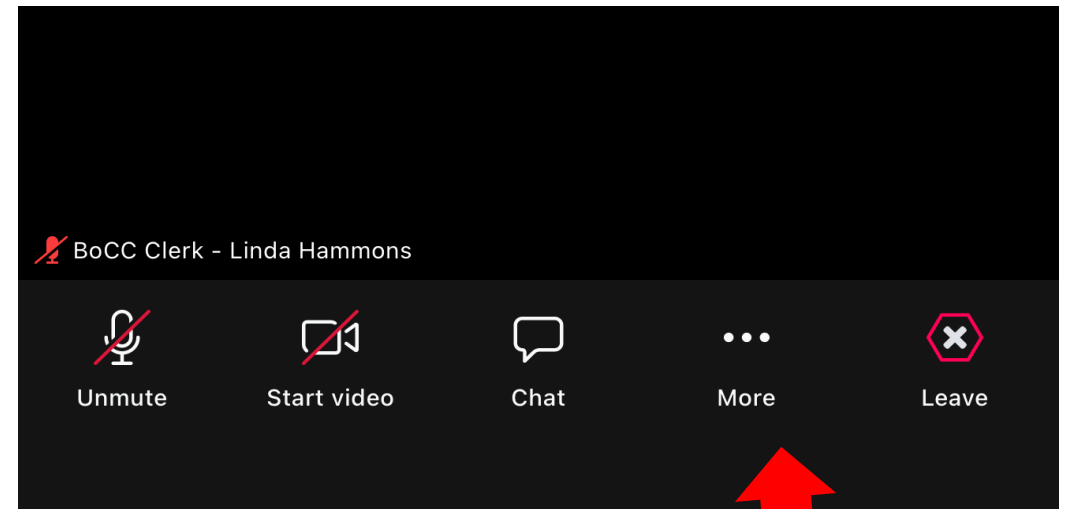
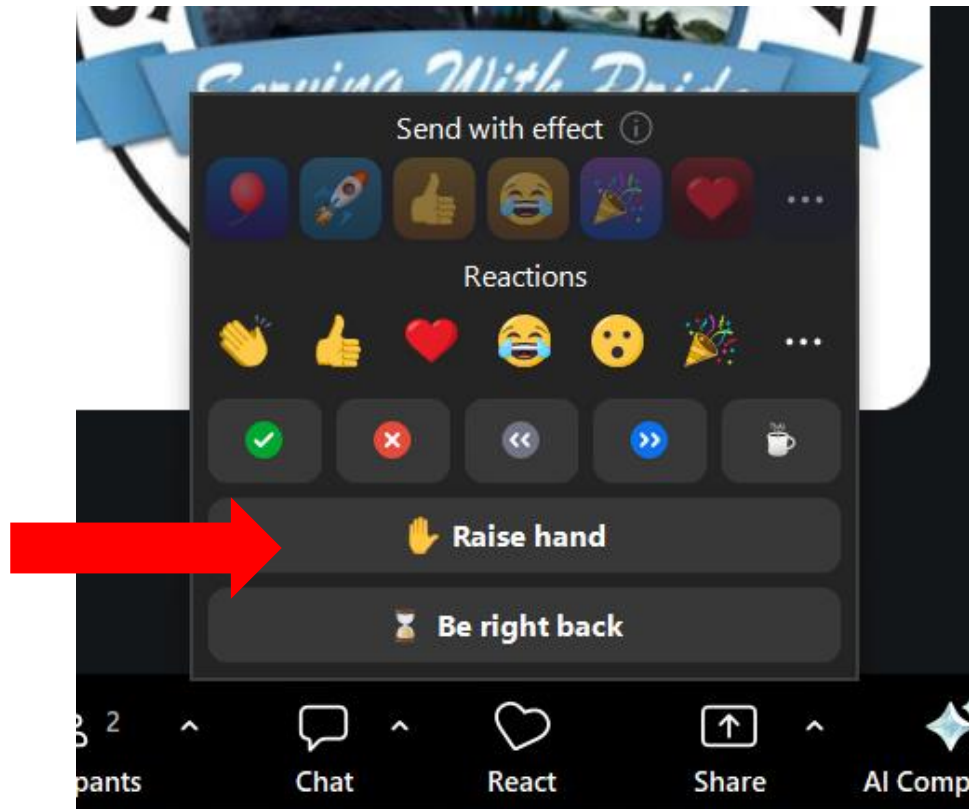


# Q&A

- Please hold questions until after the presentation.
- You may submit questions in the chat.
- After we answer chat questions, we will open the floor to other questions.
  - Please use the "raise hand feature" to signal that you would like to ask a question.
  - One question per person – if we have more time you can ask more questions at the end.



# Raise Hand



# Introductions

Michael See, Public Works Director

Tom Weller, P.E., County Engineer

Marie Lambert, Assistant Director/Controller

Gael Fisk, P.E., Assistant County Engineer/Engineering  
Division Manager

Jenn Rogers, Communications Manager

Rachel Rowe, Captain, Ferry Division Manager



# Ferry Ticketing Updates

## 2026 Fare Schedule

- 2026 fare schedule - **Resolution #R20250259**
- Correction needed for oversized vehicle rate calculation
  - **Public hearing** will be scheduled; notice will go out via listserv

## Ticket Expiration

- All 2026 tickets expire after **December 31, 2026**
  - *Note: Nonpeak tickets are not valid during peak season*
- Expiration tied to annual fare schedule updates



# Ferry Ticketing Updates

## New Self-Service Ticketing Kiosk (February 2026)

- Located inside **Anacortes Terminal**
- Offers:
  - General, oversize, and passes
  - Ticket lookup - remaining rides
  - English & Spanish options
  - Credit/debit, Apple Pay, Google Pay
- Available during all operating hours
- Ferry crew will assist during transition





# 2026 Ferry Maintenance Projects



## Pier-Side Maintenance (Spring 2026)

- Occurs **spring** (exact dates TBD)
- Work includes:
  - Replacement of four steel deck sections (USCG requirement)
  - Replacement of engine-related wiring causing June 2025 shutdown
- Additional routine maintenance tasks
- Vessel in water at Contractor's facility



# 2026 Ferry Maintenance Projects

## Apron Flap Replacement

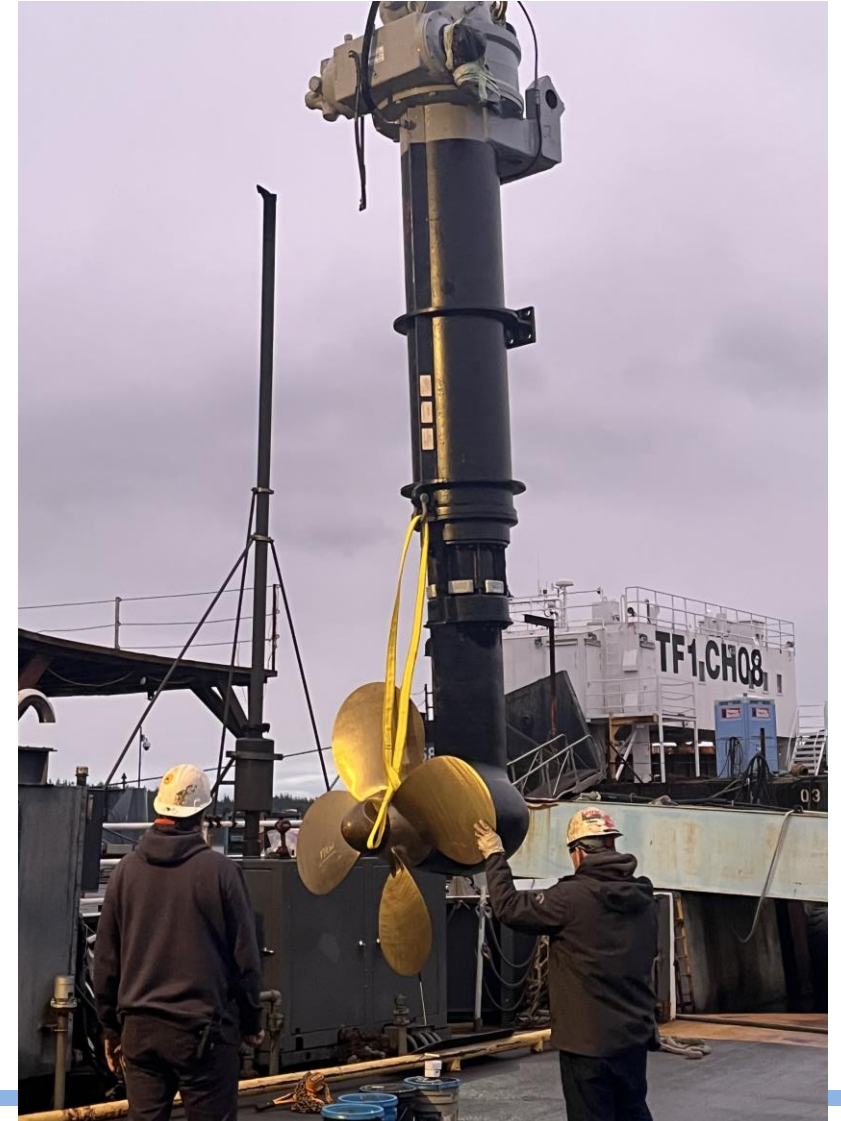
- Replacing flaps on **Anacortes** and **Guemes** bridge aprons
- Expected duration: **3 working days**
- Passenger-only service
  - Can operate between **Cap Sante** and **Guemes** Island during Anacortes work
  - May require partial shutdown of passenger-only service on Guemes side



# 2026 Ferry Maintenance Projects

## Outdrive Overhaul (Completed)

- Lower unit rebuilt
- Corroded propeller shaft replaced
- New propeller installed
- Rebuilt unit will serve as spare until needed
- Cost of repair/rebuild billed to insurance company, less the county's deductible



# Ferry Replacement Project – TAG Update

## Temporary Technical Advisory Group

- Formed to **evaluate and recommend options** for replacing or refurbishing the Guemes Island Ferry
- Provides **advisory recommendations only**—final decisions remain with the Board

## Purpose & Scope

- Review all previous ferry replacement studies and propulsion analyses
- Recommend strategies balancing **transportation needs, cost, reliability, and long-term sustainability by Aug. 31, 2026**



# Ferry Replacement Project – TAG Update

## Propulsion Systems Selected for Evaluation

1. All electric
2. Plug-in hybrid
3. Diesel electric
4. Preserve current ferry
5. Mimic Whatcom County Lummi Island design and/or propulsion system (diesel electric battery hybrid)



# Ferry Replacement Project – TAG Update

Prioritized List of Selected Evaluation Criteria	
1	Upfront capital cost
2	Year-over-year maintenance costs and intervals
3	Reliability
4	Lifecycle cost
5	Complexity (including design and build)
6	Emissions (including vessel air emissions)
7	Energy consumption
8	Terminal impacts
9	Available funding sources



# Value Engineering / Risk Assessment

## Purpose of the Study

- Assess current **all-electric vessel design** and bid package
- Identify opportunities to **reduce project cost**
- Evaluate and mitigate **project risks**

## Next Steps

- Ferry Division is selecting a consultant
- More information will be shared once consultant is selected
- Findings will inform future decisions



# Anacortes Shoreline Permit Status

- These are elements to be removed
  - Toll Booth
  - On shore battery storage
  - Ferry charging system
  - Holding Lane retaining wall
- Next steps
  - Resubmittal to the City
  - Public Hearing in April





# Parking Lot Updates



# Existing Conditions

- Anacortes parking lots
  - Last resurfaced in 2005/2006
  - The cement curbing is failing
  - Overcrowding and illegal parking
- Guemes Island parking lot
  - graveled surface
  - Storm runoff flows directly to shoreline
  - Long-term storage of vehicles



# Design & Construction Updates

- Anacortes parking lots
  - To be refreshed in 2026 or 2027
  - Lower lot reconfigured to address ADA
  - Enhanced public safety and security
  - Parking management is now requested
- Guemes parking lot design continues
  - Runoff to be treated
  - Accommodations for vehicle charging
  - Improved traffic circulation and access





# 2025 Federal Bridge Program



# Existing Conditions

- 60-month inspection cycle by WSDOT
- Painting system is now 25 years old
- Electrical system is original to 1979
- Hydraulic system is original to 1979
- Increasingly frequent service interruptions



# Competitive FHWA Grant

- Elements to be designed and reconstructed
  - Painting System
  - Electrical System
  - Hydraulic System
- Federal Grant Award - \$5.79M
- County matching requirement – 13.5%
- Construction is possible by 2028





# Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Grant



# Existing Conditions

- Essential systems for ferry operations
- Partial replacement last winter
- Piling system is original to 1979 install
- Increasingly frequent service interruptions to address repairs





# FTA Grant – Congressional Appr.

- Design will be forward compatible
- Elements must meet the BABA Act
- Work to be added to Shoreline Permit
- Construction is possible by late 2027 or early 2028

