

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

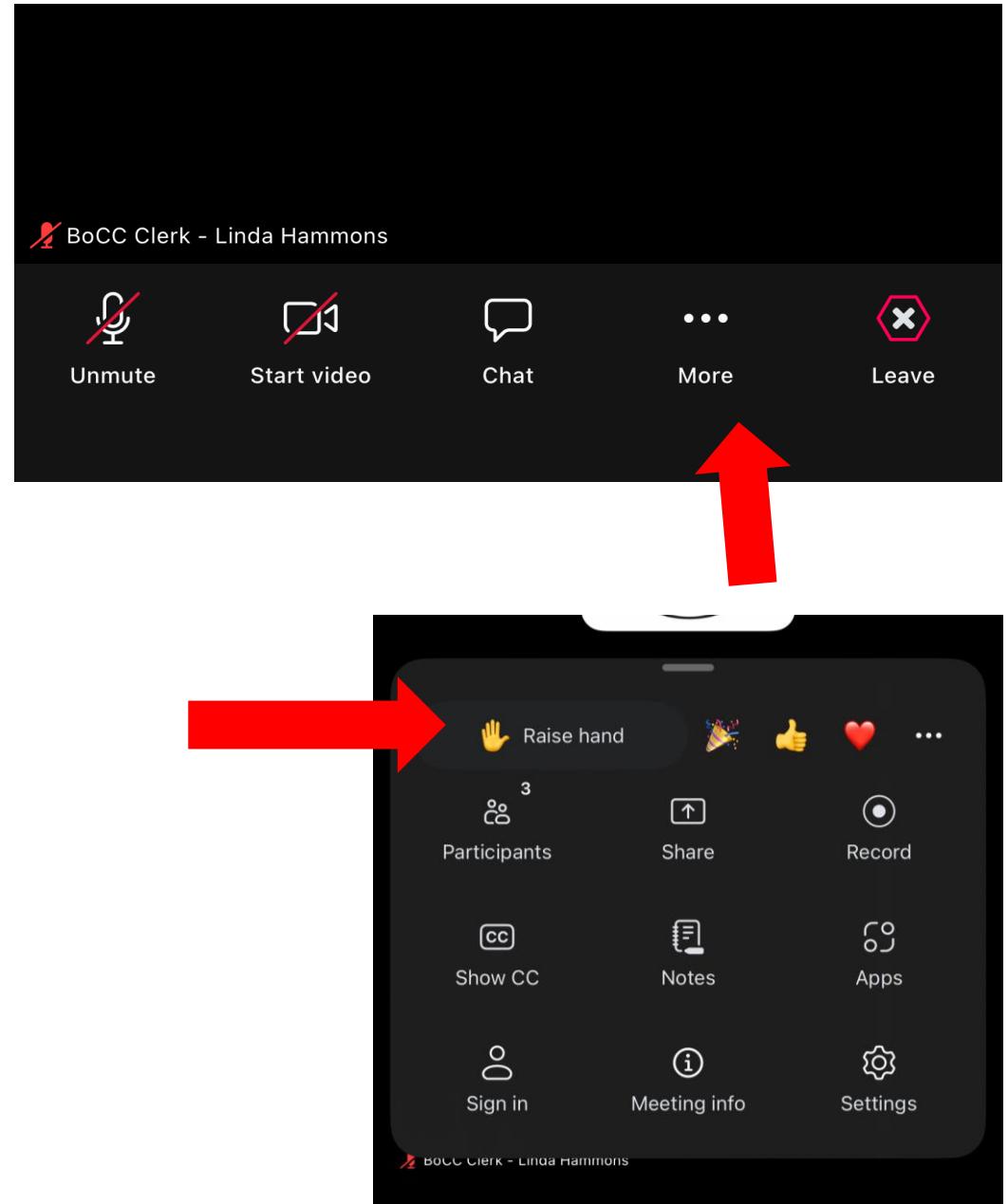
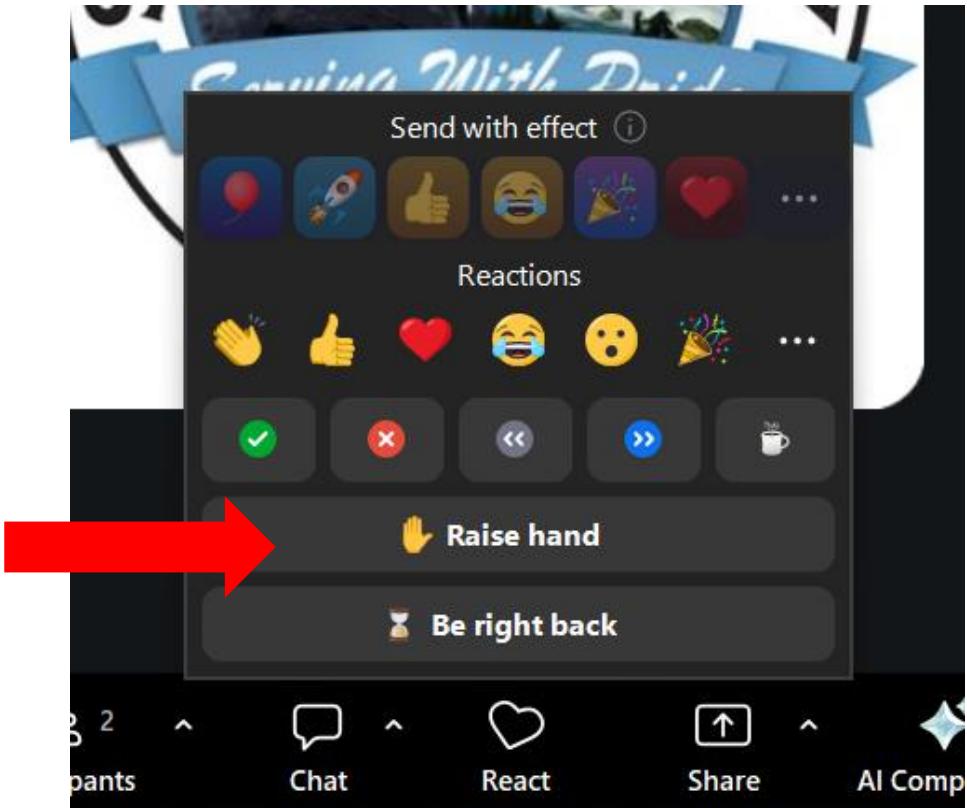


Q&A

- 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

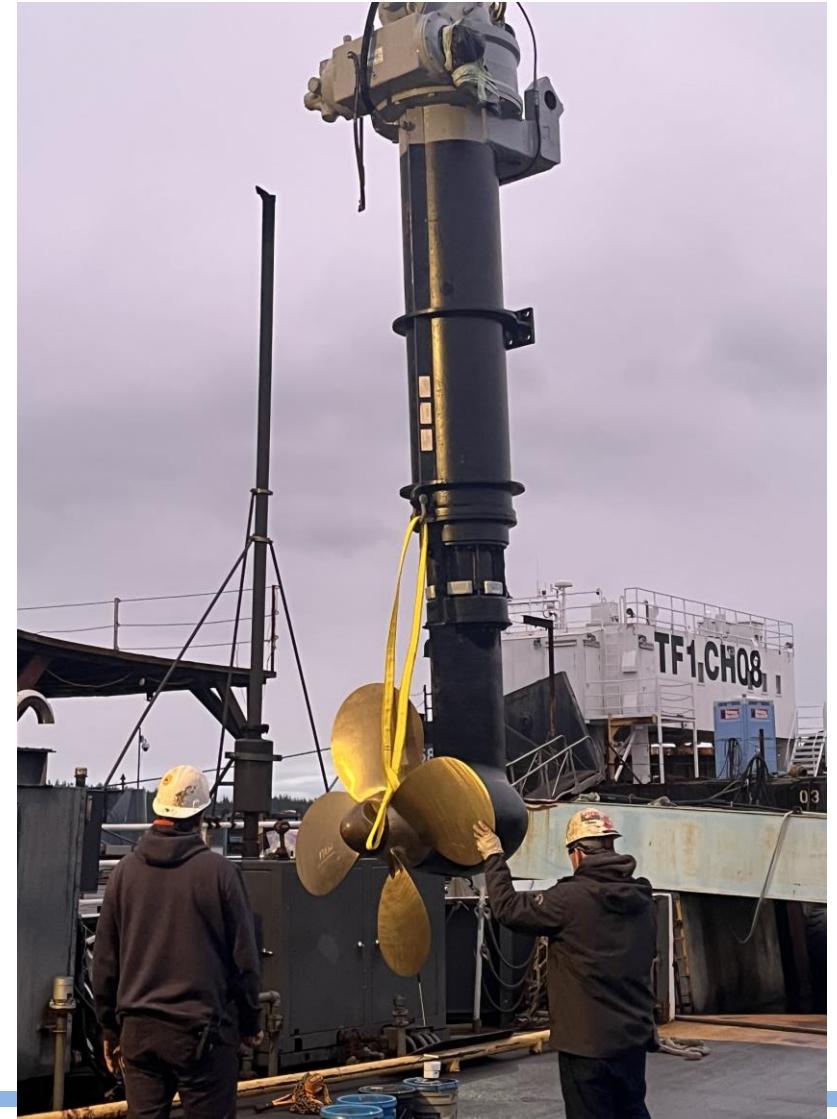
- Replacing flaps on **Anacortes and Guemes bridge aprons**
- Expected duration: **3 working days**
- Passenger-only service
 - Can operate between **Cap Sante and Guemes Island** during Anacortes work
 - May require partial shutdown of passenger-only service on Guemes side



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

