



Ferry Matters

Guemes Island Ferry

A Skagit County Public Works Publication

February/March 2014

We are very pleased to provide you with pertinent ferry related information that we hope you will find helpful. This newsletter will be distributed every other month. "Ferry Matters" will be distributed via the list serve; to sign up please email me at rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us. Copies will also be available at the Anacortes ferry terminal.

-Captain Rowe



Ferry Manager's Corner

As we were wrapping up 2013, I was looking around our ferry terminals and facilities and reflecting back on all of the projects we have done since I stepped in as Operations Manager in 2010. The new terminal building, the K Avenue parking lot walkway, the Guemes Island dolphins, the wing walls at Guemes and Anacortes, and the ferry dock rehabilitation and asphalt overlay are all examples of significant improvements that have been made. A number of projects have also taken place on Guemes Island, such as the Edens Road improvements, the extension of the Guemes holding lane, and the recent South Shore Road project.

In total, over \$4 million has been spent, and it shows. We are so proud of our ferry terminal and facilities, and we are not done yet! This year's big project will replace the remaining five creosote pilings at the Anacortes landing with new steel dolphins. A project update is provided below.

The other project scheduled for 2014 is the maintenance and haul-out period. The exact dates of the haul-out are unknown at this point. The work still needs to go out for bid, and it is anticipated that the ferry will not be hauled out before September, 2014. I will keep everyone posted on the haul-out as we find out more.

Dolphin Project Update: In 2014, the last of the five creosote dolphins on the Anacortes side will be demolished and replaced with five new steel dolphins. Upon completion of this project, the creosote dolphins will be completely eliminated at both ferry landings. Skagit County has received an 80% match grant for \$1.2 million from the Ferry Boat Discretionary for this project. Total construction cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. Pacific Pile & Marine, out of Seattle, Washington, was the low bidder for the work. They have subcontracted with a local company, Industrial Resources, on Highway 9, in Clear Lake, WA for the fabrication of the fender systems and dolphin caps.

It is anticipated that construction will begin July 15, 2014. Impacts to ridership during construction should be minimal. For more information, please contact Jennifer Swanson, Project Manager, at (360) 336-9400.

Did you know...

Public Works will host a public forum on Guemes Island at the Community Center at 7549 Guemes Island Road, on March 26, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. Agenda items include presentation of the Draft 2014 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report, a ferry projects update, and general discussion. County staff who will be present include:

- District 1 Commissioner, Ron Wesen
- Interim Public Works Director, Dan Berentson
- County Engineer, Paul Randall-Grutter
- Public Works Controller, Jim Mickel
- Ferry Operations Division Manager, Rachel Rowe

The public is invited to learn about and discuss ferry operations. We look forward to seeing you there!

On April 22, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. Public Works will present the final 2014 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners. The public is welcome to attend. The presentation will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.



Impacts to Ridership: Recently, many riders have been asking about the ferry's fueling schedule. As a reminder, the ferry fuels every other week, on Tuesday, between approximately 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. On fueling days, the ferry will not do a "double run" on the 11:15 a.m. run. For your planning efforts, the 2014 ferry fueling schedule has been included in this newsletter. This schedule is also available online at www.skagitcounty.net/ferry.

FUELING SCHEDULE 2014

The Guemes Island Ferry will be fueling between 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. on the dates listed below.

On the following days, there will be no second or double 11:15 a.m. sailing*:

Tuesday, January 7	Tuesday, July 8
Tuesday, January 21	Tuesday, July 22
Tuesday, February 4	Tuesday, August 5
Tuesday, February 18	Tuesday, August 19
Tuesday, March 4	Tuesday, September 2
Tuesday, March 18	Tuesday, September 16
Tuesday, April 1	Tuesday, September 30
Tuesday, April 15	Tuesday, October 14
Tuesday, April 29	Tuesday, October 28
Tuesday, May 13	Monday, November 10
Tuesday, May 27	Tuesday, November 25
Tuesday, June 10	Tuesday, December 9
Tuesday, June 24	Tuesday, December 23

*Ferry maintenance may be conducted on other days between 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

On days when maintenance is required, ferry staff will hang the "No 2nd 11:15 Sailing" sign on the dock, indicating there will not be a double on the 11:15 a.m. run. Whenever possible, ferry staff will do their best to schedule maintenance so that a double run can still occur on the 11:15 a.m.

For more information, please contact Rachel Rowe, Ferry Operations Division Manager
at (360) 336-9400 or rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us.

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