

# Skagit County Ferry News

May 2020

## Fare collection changes start May 5

In response to COVID-19, the Guemes Island Ferry system took early precautions, to protect our workers and ferry community.

Beginning May 5, we will begin collecting fares again; however, we're making a couple of changes to the way we sell tickets.

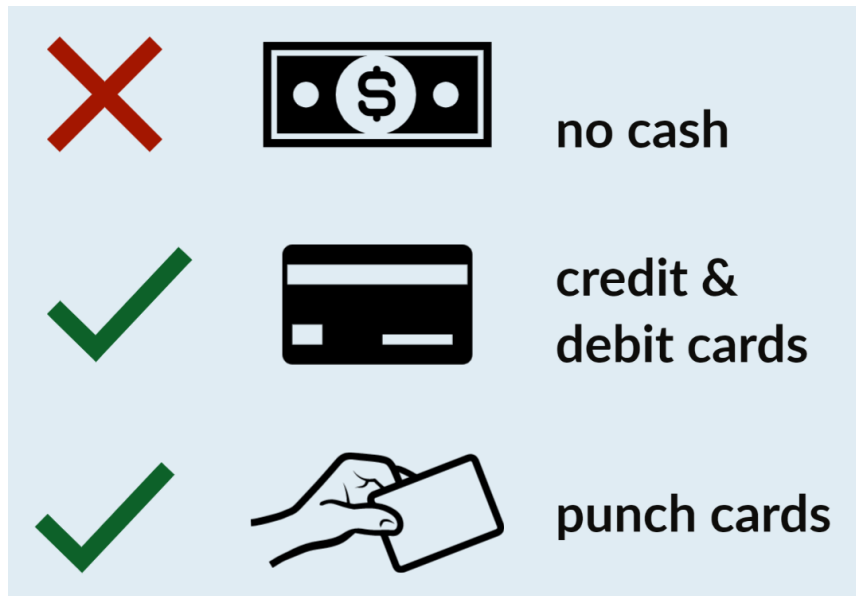
Starting May 5, we will ONLY accept punch cards and credit or debit cards as methods of payment; the ferry system will not be accepting cash.

### Here's what you need to know

**Punch cards:** Ferry riders are encouraged to buy discounted punch cards as a safe, convenient method of payment.

- ▶ Purchase by phone, email and mail by May 20, and we'll waive the expiration date.
- ▶ Want to know more about how to purchase? Visit [skagitcounty.net/Departments/publicworksferry/tickets.htm](http://skagitcounty.net/Departments/publicworksferry/tickets.htm).
- ▶ Punch cards are available for purchase at the ferry terminal starting May 5 (expiration dates will apply).

**Schedule & Fares:** The Guemes Island Ferry continues to operate on its non-peak sailing schedule.



**no cash**

**credit & debit cards**

**punch cards**

The peak season sailing schedule is delayed due to COVID-19 and will not go into effect on May 20.

*NOTE: In order to maintain our schedule as we start to see traffic increase, we will stop selling tickets at 1 minute prior to sailing time. This has always been our policy; late arrivals will not be accommodated starting May 5. Please arrive early.*

Peak season fares will go in to effect on May 20. See [skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksFerry/ferry2.htm](http://skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksFerry/ferry2.htm) for more information. *NOTE: punch cards prices do not increase during the peak season.*

**Rider safety:** The Skagit County Public Health Department strongly recommends wearing a mask when in public and keeping at least six feet of distance between yourself and others.

We are asking vehicle drivers and passengers to stay in their vehicles with the windows rolled.

**If you have questions:** Please see the other side for frequently asked questions.



scan with your phone camera for more information



# FAQ: More info about May 5 changes

## Why are you starting to collect fares on May 5?

We need to be able to operate the ferry during this crisis, which could last for several more months. While we cannot financially continue to operate the ferry for free, we can change some of our policies. This will protect our workers and ferry community while ensuring we generate the revenue we need to keep the system working.

## Why have you implemented a no-cash policy?

Physical distance is critical to preventing the spread of the virus. The exchange of cash and change is a potential transmission point. We don't know where cash has been before it arrives at the terminal. It could have traces of the virus that could put our pursers and customers at risk.

## How can I buy a ferry ticket?

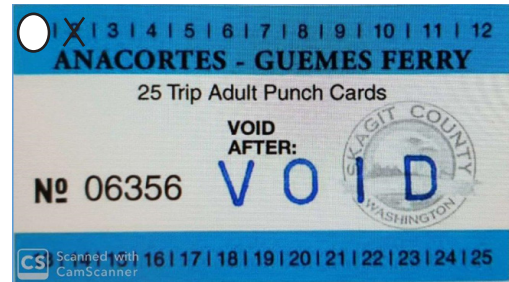
For drive-on customers, ferry tickets for single rides are available for purchase at the window of your vehicle. Please roll your window down enough to insert your credit/debit card into our machine. For walk-on customers, we ask that all single-ride walk-on tickets be purchased outside on the patio for the safety of our Pursers. Only credit/debit cards are accepted for payment.

## How much do punch cards cost?

Punch cards offer a significant discount, especially during the peak season. You can help us protect our crew and the ferry community by purchasing and using punch cards. Find pricing information below, or visit [www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/publicworksferry/tickets.htm](http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/publicworksferry/tickets.htm) for information about punch card purchasing.

## What if I purchased a punch card earlier this year?

Previously purchased vehicle punch cards marked to expire March 23-July 22, 2020, have a two-month extension of expiration. Walk-on punch cards are good for one year; there is no extension.



## Can I validate my own punch card?

Yes; during COVID-19, you can, if the Purser sees you do it. You must provide your own equipment, and allowable methods for validating your own punch card are: Use your own hole puncher to punch a trip number; use a black sharpie or standard pen to "x" out a trip number; or hold your punch card at arm's length for the Purser to punch while maintaining social distancing.

## What else do I need to know about paying by credit or debit card?

We have asked our Pursers not to handle customers' credit cards. You will need to insert your credit/debit card into the machine. We are temporarily waiving signatures on all transactions, and you can opt out of a receipt and a paper ticket. If you are walking on, you must purchase outside on the patio, and we ask that you maintain social distancing during transactions. We disinfect credit card processing & equipment in between each run.

Punch Card Category	Punch card price	Punch card expiration date	Punch card price/trip	Peak fare – Starts May 20 (without punch card)
20-trip vehicle & driver <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 196.00	120 days from purchase <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 9.80	\$ 15.00
20-trip vehicle & senior/disabled driver <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 156.00	120 days from purchase <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 7.80	\$ 12.00
10-trip vehicle & driver <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 120.00	No expiration	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00
10-trip vehicle & senior/disabled driver <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 100.00	No expiration	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00
25-trip adult passenger <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 77.00	1 year from date of purchase <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 3.08	\$ 5.00
25-trip senior/youth/disabled passenger <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 46.00	1 year from date of purchase <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1.84	\$ 3.00

<sup>(1)</sup> Can be purchased and used any time during the peak or non-peak season until expiration

<sup>(2)</sup> Expiration date is waived if purchased by mail between now and May 20, 2020 (includes orders placed by mail, email or phone)

