

From: Sue Roberts
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Proposed Ferry Surcharge
Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 12:07:38 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a Guemes Island resident who is opposed to the ferry surcharge proposal.

As a self-employed artist with a studio on Guemes, I've had to figure out how to create a livelihood that enables me to continue to live and work on Guemes. I started offering classes and workshops at my studio several years ago, along with a summer art camp for kids. While it took time to develop and grow my art program, it has become successful enough that I am dependant on it's continuation. Many of my students come from around Skagit county and take the ferry to get to class. Since I heard about the ferry surcharge idea, I've been asking my students and friends in the community if adding a dollar or two to the price of ferry passage would effect their decision to come over to Guemes and take a six week class. Since many students come twice a week, some said they'd just have to pay it, others said they'd have to think about it. You may think what's a dollar here and there, but a lot of my students are young, working minimum wage jobs and taking a ferry to a weekly class is all ready an expense that they take in to consideration.

I feel there are many reasons why this proposal is unfair and wrong, but I've chosen to highlight how it could impact my livelihood on Guemes.

I hope you all can figure out another way to come up with ferry replacement funds that the county just realized were needed other then dinging all the ferry riders with a toll.

Sincerely,

Sue Roberts

From: AL and DIANA MILLIKAN
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 11:21:09 AM

We are Diana and Al Millikan. We are 26 year full time residents of Guemes island. We are retired and live on a modest fixed income.

We would like to present a few common sense facts to the new ferry controversy.

A complete survey of the Guemes Ferry has not been completed by a qualified, INDEPENDENT marine surveyor for many years. Thus there is no irrefutable evidence that a new ferry is needed. We are concerned that the strong drive for a new ferry may be unwarranted and prohibitively costly. The commissioners should have survey information before continuing to insist on a new ferry.

Insisting on a \$26 million, first of its kind (and still not designed, built, nor tested) electric ferry is ludicrous! Comparison to a ferry in Norway is a challenge to credulity. THE FERRY IS OUR LIFELINE!! Which of you would like to depend on a new prototype ferry to get you off the island each day. What happens if there are delays and breakdowns or the new electric ferry is unreliable or deficient?

Our sense is that the majority of full time Guemes residents seriously doubt the need for a new ferry, especially if a \$26 million price tag is attached. We suggest that the commissioners conduct a formal vote to determine the will of the residents. While public hearings are good, they do not provide an official opportunity for all residents to have input into the process.

Finally, we object to the proposed surcharge, or collection of funds in any form until the above information is available and a accurate budget and plan for funding is available to us all.

Respectfully,
Al and Diana Millikan
4929 S. Shore Drive
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-303-0847

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Janice Veal
To: [Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Replacement Fare Surcharge Proposal
Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 11:20:05 AM

April 27, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

I am very concerned about the direction you have taken regarding the Guemes Island ferry. I have lived on Guemes for 50 years this fall and have never felt this much anxiety about the ferry. Your application to C.R.A.B. asking for funding for the 32 car electric ferry seemed rushed with not enough time to consider other alternatives.

I am opposed to the surcharge. Last year I spent \$1,496 on car/driver ferry tickets. I have to commute with my car because I contract with the Anacortes School District teaching art in various schools. My car is filled with art supplies including heavy bags of clay. The surcharge would also create a huge financial burden on young families that have to take their kids to preschool on a daily basis, or residents that have medical appointments or therapy. It is already expensive to live on Guemes especially when you have to commute with a car. The surcharge on the state ferries is at a much less percentage. Residents in the San Juan Islands have more services on the islands and do not have to commute.

Where else in the county do you ask residents to pay for capital expenses? You are discriminating against Guemes islanders and treating them differently from other county residents. Are you requiring them to pay a toll over bridges? Why have you abandoned the "Bridge Analogy" that worked for so many years and was supported by previous commissioners?

Guemes pays a large amount of money in road taxes and I'm sure a small portion of those funds are spent on Guemes roads. Why not establish a capital reserve fund from those taxes? Your proposed surcharge is a huge financial burden for island residents who have to commute. Please re-evaluate your funding for capital expenses.

Sincerely,

Janice Veal

From: Glen Veal
To: [Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018 8:58:22 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to drop the proposed ferry replacement surcharge for the following reasons:

The Guemes Island ferry is part of the Skagit County road system and is our “bridge” to the mainland as are many of the other bridges in the County. Through the years, since 1981, Skagit County Commissioners have accepted the “bridge analogy” in dealing with the operational costs of the ferry. Although your budget for the bridges has obvious operational and maintenance costs, these expenses are covered through the taxes collected for the road fund and appropriated for roads. To my knowledge, there have never been any “user fees”, or tolls, for those using these bridges. Although I don’t know the life of a bridge, I assume that these bridges will need to be replaced someday and I would like to know if you have a capital reserve fund for their replacement? If not, it is probably the same reason that there has never been a capital reserve fund for the replacement of the Guemes ferry. Over three decades of acceptance of the “bridge analogy” has acknowledged that only operational expenses were subject to fares. Capital expenditures were not part of any fare recovery model that I participated in during my 32 years of service on the Guemes Ferry Committee from 1981 through 2013.

Now, with the application to C.R.A.B. for money to help build a new ferry, there is a possible requirement for a surcharge to show that Skagit County has money set aside to help with its construction. So here we are today, facing an approximate 30% fare increase to potentially put \$250,000 per year in a capital reserve fund. This proposed surcharge for capital expenditures nullifies over 30 years of acceptance of the bridge analogy and places a “user fee” on ferry users for capital expenditures.

Instead of a surcharge, I would like to suggest that you acknowledge that Guemes Island will contribute \$569,567 to the Road Fund in 2018 based on Guemes Island’s total appraised value of \$324,816,304 which I got from the Assessor’s office recently. We all know that our roads on Guemes don’t require that amount of money to maintain on an annual basis and, therefore, it would be an appropriate alternative to allocate \$250,00 annually from the Guemes road taxes to be put into a capital reserve fund for the eventual replacement of the Guemes ferry instead of the proposed surcharge to satisfy the C.R.A.B requirement. Also remember that Guemes ferry users already pay more than a million dollars per year in fares.

Finally, I believe that until you establish user fees for replacement of County Bridges, you are treating Guemes Islanders differently than the rest of Skagit County residents. This discrimination abandons the long accepted bridge analogy that has been supported by all the Commissioners who have preceded you.

Again, I hope you will drop the proposed ferry replacement fare surcharge and replace it with direct funding from the Skagit County road fund.

Sincerely,

Glen Veal
4453 Edens Rd.
Guemes Island

PS

1) The proposed extension of the frequent user card for car/driver to 120 days will decrease your revenue since most summer weekenders will qualify thus negating the collection of the higher cash fares.

From: Ken Morrison
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018 2:00:14 PM

Dear Commissioners Dahlstedt, Janicki, and Wesen:

We were disappointed to learn that Skagit County had not been setting aside money to replace the Guemes ferry. We are all the more disappointed to see you targeting users with a surcharge before making a symbolic commitment from the fund that you use to build the rest of your roads and bridges—a fund that islanders have been paying into all these years.

We drive our midsize pickup truck onto the Guemes ferry about once a week to visit our family and to work on our tree farm. Although we prefer to pay as little as possible for taking our truck over, we believe that drivers should bear more of the financial burden than they currently do. Vehicles are driving the size and cost of this new ferry, and it is time that ticket prices reflected this fact. A 20% surcharge on cars and a 33% surcharge on passengers is a step in the wrong direction. We encourage you to revise your surcharges and your fares so that people pay in proportion to what they use, which includes scaling the surcharge for large trucks by length.

Your reports suggest that people use the ferry less as prices rise. This leads to some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that you may have overestimated your surcharge revenue, because you did not account for this effect.

The good news is that higher vehicle fares may reduce vehicle demand, reducing the required size of the new ferry, reducing your costs, and ultimately reducing the fares you would have to charge to break even. We encourage you to experiment with this stable feedback loop during peak season, with the understanding that most folks need a place to park at the terminals in order to walk on. You may need to offer reserved parking spaces for commuters and discounts for people with disabilities, as these groups would be hit hardest by higher vehicle fares.

Finally, if you need ferry riders to take on a bigger stake in the ferry's finances, then this would be the perfect opportunity to offer us a bigger stake in the ferry's oversight in return for our investment. Perhaps you could offer the Guemes Island Ferry Committee guaranteed regular meetings with the Commissioners and Public Works, and formal representation in planning and policy formation.

As a parting thought, we doubt that a small, cash-strapped public agency like Skagit County could ever come out ahead on a bleeding-edge propulsion system that costs three times more to implement, falls millions short of ever breaking even, lacks the stamina of a diesel boat, offers only marginal environmental benefits, and can no longer give you the bragging rights of owning the first electric vehicle ferry in the U.S. We spend more time waiting for the ferry than we spend aboard it. We just want a plain and simple boat that always gets us to the other side for the lowest possible cost. Given how much of a financial and political hardship this project is proving to be for Skagit County, plain and simple might make your lives a lot easier too.

Sincerely,

Ken & Jenni Morrison
419 "Q" Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221

From: jayne mardesich
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry replacement surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 7:06:08 PM

I have been thinking about the proposed surcharge, especially as I work fulltime and currently spend in excess of \$2400.00 yearly on fees for my daily commute. That is a chunk of change. The surcharge as proposed would add almost \$600.00 to my yearly charge. I feel as though I am already supplementing the ferry budget, as those of us that ride the ferry daily through all seasons make up a large portion of the fees gathered. Perhaps it would be more fair for those that ride the ferry infrequently to pay an increased surcharge on their usage, and the frequent use card purchasers pay less? Make it a \$5 surcharge in the summer season for the single users, and if they want to buy a punch card they are more than welcome! And if you want more revenue, why would you increase the length of the punch card expiration when you should shorten it. And why would you have bikes go for free? They take up plenty of space in the summer season and should have to pay for that space, just as the cars do.

What I see happening is many more people walking on, with no parking available for them on either side. Not too mention how increased walk on traffic is one reason it is a struggle to stay on schedule as the more there are, the more time it takes to load and unload, especially on the Guemes side.

Thank you for taking the time to read these comments.

Jayne Mardesich

Very Frequent Ferry User!!!!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Allen Bush
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Skagit County Ferry Surcharge Written Comments
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 9:32:02 AM
Attachments: [Ferry Surcharge letter 418.pdf](#)

Allen Bush – 6628 West Shore Dr. – Anacortes, WA 98221 – bushman@mail.com

April 17, 2018

Skagit County Board of Commissioners
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Allen Bush

Today you are contemplating a ticket surcharge to help pay for the Skagit County Ferry replacement. Skagit County staff has circulated written reasons why a surcharge is necessary and long overdue. To quote the document: *“It is financially prudent to establish a replacement fund for all Skagit County equipment before it needs to be replaced - and the ferry is no exception.”*

Unless I am mistaken there is a replacement fund for the Ferry. It’s called the County Road Fund. Ever since Skagit County got into the ferry business in 1962 islanders have contributed in good faith to the road fund to help pay for transportation capital improvement across the county. Now 56 years of waiting our turn, we no longer qualify. Instead you are suggesting a 30% ticket surcharge that may potentially collect \$5 million over the next 20 years.

The Skagit County Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P) contained some 39 projects of county wide transportation improvement totaling \$72 Million. The T.I.P. included the replacement of the Guemes Island Ferry in 2018 for \$12 million.

It appears the County’s appetite for a \$26 million, all-electric, ferry outweighs the need to keep the public trust and the promise that you’ll find the money from outside sources. This surcharge would obligate a very small group of taxpayers to a very large debt.

To also use a State RCW intended for a much larger State Ferry System with a ticket surcharge of 3% to validate a 30% surcharge for the Skagit County Ferry is unreasonable. You just may encourage users to change their travel habits in such a way that there will be less revenue to pay for a new ferry.

It is not the fault of a 40 year-old vessel or ferry users that we find ourselves coming up short. I would hope you do not implement a ticket surcharge at this time.

Allen Bush

From: Bill McCarthy
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:01:44 PM

Dear Skagit County Commissioners,

My name is William McCarthy, and my wife and I have lived full time on Guemes I. for about four years. I'm writing because I have some questions regarding how our ferry was determined to be at the end of it's useful life. Have there been recent stress cracks in the hull? Was ultrasound testing done to determine hull thickness, and how much wastage has there been over the life of the vessel so far? What is the condition of the main car deck, is it overly stressed by large commercial vehicles? What is the condition of void spaces and fuel tanks, etc.

Are these the original engines and drive units in the vessel, and are these the biggest source of annual repair costs that make the ferry not economically viable?

I have been a commercial fisherman my entire life and held a captains license for the past 31 years. I've worked in the Bering Sea for the past 37 years, and running the same 132 ft. factory trawler for the past 13 years. I mention this because the boat I run is only four years newer than our ferry, and it has spent it's entire life working year round in the Bering Sea, facing much harsher conditions than what our ferry is subjected to. The main engine was replaced four years ago, and I can assure you this boat is not near the end of it's life. So why is our ferry so worn out?

If the biggest issues of repair cost and unreliability are centered around the engines and drive units then why not just repower the boat? A new ferry is still going to need much of the same routine annual maintenance as the old one. Has there been a study done of the cost of repower and upgrading other faulty systems. A thorough upgrade might extend the useful life another 20 years before replacing the ferry is necessary.

I'm also puzzled why a design firm made the determination that our ferry needs replacement. I've never heard of that, normally a marine surveyor is used to obtain the condition and value of a vessel.

I also want to mention that we have one of the finest shipyards anywhere right in our own backyard, Dakota Creek Industries. If we repower or build a new ferry I believe we'll get the best job from Dakota Creek. Every repower or new construction has bugs to work out, and what could be better than having the experts who did the job right down the street to call when we need service. From my experience the terms "on budget" and "on time" don't really exist in most shipyards, so putting a project out to bid and picking the yard by the most competitive price usually doesn't work out very well.

Thank you for taking the time to consider everyone's opinion of our ferry's future.

Regards,

William McCarthy
6094 West Shore Rd.

From: Alexander Bocast
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:57:52 PM

Responding to the invitation to comment printed in the Anacortes American:

A ferry surcharge is an excellent idea!

Cheers -- Alexander

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Alexander Bocast
Editor & orismologist at Berkeley Bridge Press : www.berkeleybridgepress.com

Orismology : The study of *definition* as process and product, in practice, praxis, and theory.

Member : Dictionary Society of North America; **International Society for Historical Lexicography and Lexicology**

From: Jacqueline Trevillion
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Surcharge
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:49:56 AM

Since Guemes is already paying for county infrastructure, I protest the proposed ferry surcharg. Jacqueline trevillion of guemes island

From: sue odonnell
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: "Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge"
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:13:37 AM

Dear Skagit County Commissioners,

After sitting through yesterday's opportunity for public comment, I came away with the same attitude I had before the meeting. Much money will be needed (and much has already been spent) for a new ferry for Guemes Island. Most every speaker had the opinion we do not need a NEW ferry. The current boat has much life left in it and can continue to serve for 20 or so more years with some modifications.

A surcharge has been proposed to pay for a new ferry. Too little and too late for now. It was pointed out many times, replacement money should have been put aside, starting in 1979. The powers that be in past years did not have that idea so we do not have a fund. Let's go ahead and start that now - however, at a much reduced rate than that proposed yesterday by Public Works. We just cannot price out the folks who live on Guemes and commute to work off island or the workers who depend on travelling to Guemes where they find work.

We can build up a fund. Perhaps in 20 years, or so, there will be other means to help fund public transportation. Seems to be our only hope

Sincerely,

Susan O'Donnell
6112 S. Shore Rd
Guemes Island
Anacortes WA 98221

From: sue odonnell
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: "Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge"
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9:47:17 AM

March 31, 2018

Commissioner Ron Wesen

Commissioner Dahlstedt

Commissioner Janicki

Dear Commissioners of Skagit County,

I am just home from a 2 hour Guemes Island Ferry Committee meeting where a very large crowd of taxpayers and ferry-farepayers met to consider whether the idea of a VERY Expensive Electric Ferry, proposed to carry more than 30 vehicles, is preferable to a more modest idea to modernize the current boat, perhaps adding a section for length and to carry no more than 25 or so vehicles.

One of our number, Mr. Glen Veal (long time Guemes resident, former ferry committee member and a thinker who is very sensitive to the financial limitations of most Guemes residents) has presented his findings concerning the more modest idea to use the current boat with certain upgrades. Mr. Veal referenced studies showing that the metal hull of the current boat is in fine condition considering the age of the ferry. And that the current ferry has life left in it of around 20 years.

The brilliant engineers hired during the past few years to help the county solve some of the problems with the Guemes ferry have considered new/different engines, drives; more ecological fuel systems; more room and safety for walk-on passengers; shortened wait times; and hopefully . . . a sensible ticketing system.

My take on the matter is that there needs to be a medium point between "big", "new", "flashy", "all electric" vs. a ferry which will work just fine!

Waiting in line to drive onto a ferry is just part of the deal! I object to building a larger ferry just to save people time. Consider the fact that many of the runs are far from full loads. Late ferries during much of the year go back and forth with few to no cars/passengers (bigger boat, more waste of fuel and wear and tear).

Paying a fee for use of the ferry is part of the deal, also, although when taxpayers and ferry-farepayers consider the many bridges in this county getting people over bodies of water, there is the argument the ferry ought to be considered as an extension of the road just as a bridge is an extension of the road.

Therefore, please carefully consider the fact that Guemes Island residents do not want – and in many cases, *cannot afford* - to be paying a premium to live here. Someone needs to send us all back to the drawing board where we had 5 choices (including keeping the current ferry) and settle on a choice that won't need more money than we all have! Thank you for helping with the CRAB application. It sounds like “free money”. But, sadly, it seems even those funds won't be enough to build the biggest and best *or even the least!*

The high taxes we pay to live here (or anywhere) go toward many services and are shared throughout the county as deemed necessary by you and your staffs. We are grateful for your consideration and the hard job it is to balance so many issues. However, the short-sightedness of no plan or preparation for the future is appalling and to be blamed on past administrations, we suppose.

So, what to try next? The SURCHARGE? A SIGNIFICANT SURCHARGE! How will that work? Will it be the “straw to break the back” of the less affluent among us – the workers who go back and forth each day to their jobs?

My skepticism reflects what I heard at the meeting on Saturday and what my friends and neighbors wrestle with. Will we be priced out of our wonderful community?

Sincerely,

Susan O'Donnell

6112 South Shore Road

Guemes Island

Anacortes WA 98221

From: Martin H. Spani
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Fare increase
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 8:24:51 AM

The logical way out is to **Privatize** the ferry. There is no way that the residents of Skagit County should be paying for a ferry that services only a few that choose to live on the island. If that is not an option, which it most certainly should be, then a fare increase for **those that utilize the ferry should pay it, NOT the rest of the county.**

From: William Rainwater
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry surcharge
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018 8:22:07 AM

My name is Bill Rainwater and have lived full time on Guemes for 26 years. I understand that we need to pay for a new ferry but do not like the idea of a taxing district. It would not be a fair way to raise money. A large number of ferry users do not live on Guemes. I also believe that all ferry riders that are not in a car should bay a greater amount to use the ferry. People who live on guemes and walk on would not be able to live there without a car ferry and should pay a larger amount to support the ferry.

Bill Rainwater

From: Randy Shuman
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Guemes ferry comments
Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018 5:11:42 PM

I am a part time resident of Guemes island and have been a ferry user for about 40 years.-
-I understand the need for a new ferry
-I am in favor of the proposal to add a surcharge for vessel replacement.
-I am in favor of the recommendation for punch card tie extension and bike fee elimination. I would favor extending the punch card expiration to 1 year.

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Randy Shuman
7609 Holiday Blvd
Guemes Island
206-755-8991

From: Dean Torkelson
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018 11:44:57 AM

I suggest we allow the surcharge to remain in place permanently. Doing so would prevent making the same mistake twice, i.e. not funding forward for the ferry replacement after this new one. And, in future years the surcharge should be a function of the projected cost of that replacement ferry.

From: Wanda Johanson
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Replacement Surcharge
Date: Friday, April 13, 2018 7:04:15 PM

I am in support of the ferry replacement surcharge. It is a modest, reasonable price increase to ensure a future of the ferry we depend on. I live on Guemes Island. I *choose* to live on the island and have always understood that ferry fees will ultimately need to keep pace with the needs of ferry operations and maintenance. I appreciate county efforts to keep the islanders informed and involved and to keep fares as low as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Darlene Klister
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Fwd: Guemes Ferry Surcharge/Replacement Fee
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:47:09 PM

RE: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge

Dear Skagit County Commissioners,

I have read about the Guemes Ferry Surcharge/Replacement Fee proposal and the increased cost to those who use the Guemes Ferry. The Public Hearing will take place on April 17th at a time when I have to work and am unable to come to the meeting. Therefore I am providing you with my statement and request here. I would again state that this is not a well thought out idea, singles out only those who live on Guemes and only those who use the Ferry. I do not see that you have considered any type of fee to ALL Skagit County residents. I must again say that residents and landowners of Guemes pay for ALL the public roadways in the county. Why do only those who use the Guemes Ferry have to pay for the new ferry?

Please reconsider this proposal. It feels as though you are doing this in a hurried manner, not well thought out, nor are you taking into consideration the ideas, feelings or constructive ideas of those who will be most affected by your decision. Please listen to what others are proposing and asking. It will be the best for all concerned in the long run.

Best Regards,

Darlene Klister
5245 S. Shore Drive
Anacortes (Guemes), WA.

From: Darlene Klister
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: RE: Guemes Ferry Surcharge/Replacement Fee
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:40:44 PM

Dear Skagit County Commissioners,

I have read about the Guemes Ferry Surcharge/Replacement Fee proposal and the increased cost to those who use the Guemes Ferry. The Public Hearing will take place on April 17th at a time when I have to work and am unable to come to the meeting. Therefore I am providing you with my statement and request here. I would again state that this is not a well thought out idea, singles out only those who live on Guemes and only those who use the Ferry. I do not see that you have considered any type of fee to ALL Skagit County residents. I must again say that residents and landowners of Guemes pay for ALL the public roadways in the county. Why do only those who use the Guemes Ferry have to pay for the new ferry?

Please reconsider this proposal. It feels as though you are doing this in a hurried manner, not well thought out, nor are you taking into consideration the ideas, feelings or constructive ideas of those who will be most affected by your decision. Please listen to what others are proposing and asking. It will be the best for all concerned in the long run.

Best Regards,

Darlene Klister
5245 S. Shore Drive
Anacortes (Guemes), WA.

From: Beverly James
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:28:59 PM

Hello Commissioners-

I am writing to share my thoughts on the ferry replacement project. I have been able to attend two of the meetings, but not the most recent. Sounds like it got pretty contentious.

What seems apparent is that most islanders do not feel that we need the larger ferry, nor do I. The main issues are:

- 1) Need to replace existing infrastructure at huge added expense
- 2) Piled on duties of a newer ferry such as search and rescue, etc.
- 3) Cost of a new heated and lit ferry waiting are on Guemes side- don't need it, don't want it!
- 4) Impact of growth on the island and its aquifer in a time of climate change

Can we keep the old ferry with just simple engine replacement? Don't know- but it should be considered as an option. I'm not sure that is the best long term solution as what costs \$20 million today will cost more down the road.

However, what is the alternative in terms of a smaller ferry? We should be able to see all the options on the table- especially since it seems you think we should pay for much of it.

My husband and I are like many on the island- dreamed of retiring here, bought our property about 6.5 years ago and have been full time for nearly two years. We LOVE it here and accept the fact that fares will rise as part of our lives. We can budget our trips better when that happens and do a better job of stocking up. What I don't accept is the county making this decision to increase fares **and property taxes** for a larger ferry that most don't want and we don't really need.

Please find a compromise position that brings some common sense to this issue!! We are a small island of mostly middle class people. Guemes is not a glamour island! We expect you to represent our wants and needs.

Thank you,

Beverly and Dick James
7365 Guemes Place
Anacortes, WA 98221

From: englund
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Cc: [Klaudia Englund](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Sunday, April 08, 2018 7:52:20 PM

We have read with interest the Guemes ferry proposed rate schedule draft, and would like to register with you our acceptance and support of all items as described, with one exception. We find that the expiration of multiple use punch cards should be abandoned, or at least extended to a more realistic period of, say, six months.

Cordially,
Bob & Klaudia Englund
7630 Cypress Way (Guemes Island)
Anacortes, WA 98221

From: Sandra Lane
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Cc: [Rachel Rowe](#)
Subject: Guemes Island Ferry
Date: Thursday, April 05, 2018 11:13:22 AM

Dear County Commissioners and Ferry Committees,

I have attended but one ferry meeting, answered all the questionnaires, and tried to stay informed about the process of working toward a new vessel. I recently read that a marine survey has never been performed on the MV Guemes. CAN THAT BE TRUE? IS THAT DUE DILIGENCE? IS THAT ALLOWED BY THE COAST GUARD?

I ask these questions because I do not know the answers. I believe many of us Islanders would feel better about rushing to build a new vessel if we could get answers to these questions.

Respectfully,

Sandra Lane
7844 S Beach Lane
Guemes Island

From: LEXY G
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 3:45:25 PM

Opinions:

1. As a full time resident I feel there should be No increase for residents. Leaving punch cards the same cost instead as an option?
2. Biking is a great way to get back and forth but to eliminate that cost is sort of unfair to residents also if we are attempting to get home and the summer months bring several tourists with multiple bikes, they take up so much room it should be charged as such.
3. May 20th is very soon...you are not giving anyone much notice...

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: sue@suerobertssculpture.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 1:37:41 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

Are the funds being collected specifically to be applied to a new vessel? If so, will those funds be set aside and used only for that purpose, or will the funds be used wherever Public Works chooses? Will those funds be audited and the balance reported periodically? If the remaining funds are not found and a new ferry not built, will the surcharge funds be returned to us?

How long will the surcharge be in effect? Is there a total amount you intend to raise with the surcharge? Once a new ferry is built will the surcharge be removed?

Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Sue Roberts
7914 Tidewater Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
sue@suerobertssculpture.com

Signature: Sue Roberts

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: guemite2@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 1:27:50 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Barbara A Anderson
5455 No Name Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
guemite2@gmail.com

Signature: Barbara A Anderson

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: julied@fidalgo.net
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 12:17:50 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Julie deRouche
6563 Nootka Ln.
Guemes Is. Wa. 98221
julied@fidalgo.net

Signature: Julie deRouche

From: Daniel Sturgill
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 10:55:14 AM

We are extremely happy to see and totally support the County's "User Pay" approach (via increased fares) for the funding of a replacement ferry for Guemes Island. We are not supportive of creating a Ferry District followed by a disproportionate Property Tax!

Dan and Penni Sturgill
7034 Channel View Drive
Anacortes, WA 98221
206.852.9833

Sent from my iPhone

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: hbgreen50@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 10:54:26 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Holly Green
5309 Pheasant Run Lane
Anacortes, 98221-8943
hbgreen50@gmail.com

Signature: Holly B. Green

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: mjandrak@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Monday, April 02, 2018 10:35:14 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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How long will the surcharge be in effect? Is there a total amount you intend to raise with the surcharge? Once a new ferry is built will the surcharge be removed?

Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

MJ Andrak
7033 Holiday Blvd
Guemes Island, Anacortes, WA 98221
mjandrak@gmail.com

Signature: M J Andrak

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: Marshhand@hotmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Monday, April 02, 2018 10:02:54 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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How long will the surcharge be in effect? Is there a total amount you intend to raise with the surcharge? Once a new ferry is built will the surcharge be removed?

Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Jacqueline trevillion
7731 holiday blvd
Anacortes WA 98221
Marshhand@hotmail.com

Signature: Jacqueline trevillion

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: todd.sormunen@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Sunday, April 01, 2018 7:05:17 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Todd Sormunen
7682 Hideaway Lane
Anacortes
todd.sormunen@gmail.com

Signature: Todd Sormunen

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: barbcameron55@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Sunday, April 01, 2018 12:47:12 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

barb cameron
7135 upland drive
anacortes wa 98221
barbcameron55@gmail.com

Signature: Barbara Cameron

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: cacquemes@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Saturday, March 31, 2018 7:03:22 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

camelia chatfield
7778 holiday blvd
anacortes 98221
cacquemes@gmail.com

Signature: camelia a chatfield

From: Loyd Williamson
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: "Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge"
Date: Friday, March 30, 2018 7:18:35 PM

I am in favor of the surcharge to include the one for bicycles. I have no opposition to extending the date for the punch cards. I will not be able to attend the meeting but do appreciate the chance to voice my feelings.

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: almill99@msn.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Friday, March 30, 2018 7:15:14 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Diana Millikan
4929 S. Shore Drive
Anacortes WA 98221
almill99@msn.com

Signature: Diana Millikan

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: cpellett95@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 11:35:17 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Carol Pellett
5293 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
cpellett95@gmail.com

Signature: Carol Pellett

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: Sukkiherman@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 9:40:40 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Susan Herman
4717 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes
Sukkiherman@gmail.com

Signature: Susan Kay Herman

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: almill99@msn.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 8:51:36 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Al Millikan
4929 S. Shore Drive
Anacortes, WA 98221
almill99@msn.com

Signature: Alan Millikan

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: howardp71@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 7:17:58 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

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How long will the surcharge be in effect? Is there a total amount you intend to raise with the surcharge? Once a new ferry is built will the surcharge be removed?

Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Howard Pellett
5293 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
howardp71@gmail.com

Signature: Howard Pellett

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: pinotmaster@msn.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 10:56:40 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Michael Brown
4366 Clark Pont Rd
Anacortes, Washington 98221
pinotmaster@msn.com

Signature: Michael C. Brown

From: Ron Rosenberger
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Fwd: GUEMES FERRY
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 7:07:31 AM

GOOD MORNING,

PLEASE BE ADVISED I DO NOT SUPPORT THE REPLACEMENT FERRY FOR THE GUEMES RUN.
PROPER MAINTENANCE WOULD KEEP THIS VESSEL OPERATIONAL FOR MANY MORE YEARS.

AND FOR SURE, IF YOU PROCEED, I AM STRONGLY AGAINST EITHER AN ELECTRIC OR HYBRID
MODEL. STICK WITH DIESEL. IT SHOULD BE MUCH CHEAPER.

IF YOU DO WANT TO REPLACE IT IN THE FUTURE, THE SURCHARGE SHOULD BE
IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AND THEN PROCEED WITH YOU HAVE ACCRUED THE
NECESSARY FUNDS.

YOU ARE CORRECT ON ONE FACT----YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACCRUING FUNDS FOR YEARS.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY OPINIONS.

RON ROSENBERGER
1909 ISLAND VIEW PLACE
ANACORTES WA 98221

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: daleelena@aol.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 5:34:41 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Dale Creager
7727 hol

Hliday

7727 Holiday Blvd.

Anacortes, Wa. 98221
daleelena@aol.com

Signature: Dale F. Creager

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: daleelena@aol.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 5:29:35 AM

The Skagit County Commissioners

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Elena Creager
7727 Holiday Blvd.
Anacortes, Wa. 98221
daleelena@aol.com

Signature: Elena Creager

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: jfguemes@gmail.com
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:22:06 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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How long will the surcharge be in effect? Is there a total amount you intend to raise with the surcharge? Once a new ferry is built will the surcharge be removed?

Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Jerry Frelix

6143 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes Wa 98221
jfguemes@gmail.com

Signature: Jerry Frelix

From: ksjander@juno.com
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 2:17:36 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a Guemes Island homeowner, and I have been following the various recent proposals for Guemes Island ferry repair / replacement with a great deal of interest. I have recently been informed of a proposal to impose a surcharge for passengers and vehicles on the Guemes ferry run. I believe this is a bad idea; permit me to explain why.

The Guemes Island ferry system has historically been described, by Skagit County, as a part of the County's transportation network. As I understand it, the taxes I pay to Skagit County help to support this transportation system. Why then, is the cost of a repair to a part of the county's transportation only being paid by a small portion of the county's residents? Imagine if this logic were followed for needed repairs to another part of the county transportation system; for example, if repairs were needed on Farm to Market Road, would you propose a surtax on every vehicle or pedestrian each time they set foot on the road in question? Of course not, the repair cost would be borne by all county residents. So why propose a surtax in the case of Guemes Island travellers?

I have a couple other questions about this proposal:

- 1) What is the dollar amount to be raised by this surcharge? When this amount is raised, does the surtax go away, or will it remain permanently in place as a fare increase?
- 2) Will this surtax be imposed in addition to the previous proposal for creation of a taxing district affecting Guemes Island property owners only?

I look forward to your response, and to an equitable solution for the financing of this upgrade to the county - wide transportation system.

Best regards,

Scott Anderson
7306 Channel View Drive
Anacortes, WA

206-953-2099

From: home@linetime.org
To: [Ferry Comments](#); [Commissioners](#)
Cc: mail@josephmiller.name
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 1:04:03 PM

The Skagit County Commissioners

The Skagit County Commissioners have proposed imposing a significant Guemes Ferry fare surcharge, nominally to pay towards the construction of a new replacement ferry.

Why begin collecting funds for a new ferry when it is far from clear yet that Skagit County will find or raise the money to construct a new vessel?

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Can you provide me another example of a bridge, road or other infrastructure project in Skagit County where the users of that infrastructure were assessed a portion of the cost?

None of these questions are rhetorical. Please reply to my message with the answers.

Joseph Miller
7914 Tidewater Road
Anacortes WA 98221
mail@josephmiller.name

Signature: Joseph Miller

From: Nigel Cushing
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Your rate proposals
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:14:23 PM

I consider your consideration of rates for ferry replacement to be totally out of line.

People who live on other islands served by ferries do not pay such extra charges. That's because ferries are part of the transportation system. We don't pay to cross bridges or use freeways because they are paid for by fuel taxes paid by everyone. The free and open transportation systems across this country have helped communities to grow, and businesses to flourish. Your proposed added fees also weigh heavy for low income people, who should not be burdened further.

Homeowners on Guemes Island already pay significant real estate taxes to Skagit County and should not be asked to pay more.

William Cushing
5344 Beechnut Tree Land
Anacortes

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Dean Jarman
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 12:51:49 PM

Ms. Rowe,

Personally, that rate increase is a bit steep IMHO. Perhaps half of what you are proposing would be more palatable.

I do like the extension of the punch cards to 120 days.

Please keep up the great work you and your team do!

Best regards,

Dean Jarman
American Reporting Company
(425) 563-1900
www.arcreports.com



From: Guemes_Island_Ferry@skagitcounty.net [mailto:Guemes_Island_Ferry@skagitcounty.net]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Dean Jarman
Subject: Public Hearing - Commissioners Considering Vessel Replacement Surcharge

COMMISSIONERS WILL CONSIDER A VESSEL REPLACEMENT SURCHARGE

Come meet with Skagit County Commissioners to express your views for or against a proposed vessel replacement surcharge.

WHAT: Public Hearing with County Commissioners

WHEN: Tuesday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: Commissioners' Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners has determined that the M/V Guemes has reached the end of its useful and economic life and needs to be replaced. The Board is considering implementing a ferry vessel replacement surcharge (per RCW 36.54.200). The Board is considering implementing a County vessel replacement surcharge of \$1.00 per adult passenger fare sold, \$0.50 per senior/youth/disabled passenger fare sold, \$1.00 per motorcycle fare sold, \$2.00 per vehicle fare sold and \$5.00 per oversize vehicle fare sold. Frequent user punch card prices would be adjusted and discounted accordingly.

Other proposed changes to the fare schedule include extending the expiration of vehicle punch cards from 90 days to 120 days and eliminating the fee for bicycles. The proposal includes an implementation date of May 20, 2018.

More details on the proposal can be found at www.skagitcounty.net/ferry.

[Notice of Public Comment](#)

[Resolution-Call for Public Hearing](#)

[Legal Notice-Call for Public Hearing](#)

[Proposed Rate Schedule-Draft 3.26.18](#)

[Proposed Surcharge Revenue-Draft 3.26.18](#)

This proposal may be approved, modified, or rejected by the Board of Skagit County Commissioners. Your views for or against this matter are invited by attendance, representation, or letter.

How to comment:

Email comments are preferred and must be sent to ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us with **"Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge"** in the subject line. Include your comments in the body of the email rather than as attachments.

Paper comments must be printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Comments Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Skagit County Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

All comments must be received no later than Friday, April 27, and include your full name and mailing address.

Contact person:

Rachel Rowe, Ferry Division Manager
Email: rowe@co.skagit.wa.us
Phone: (360) 416-1400

You are currently subscribed to Skagit County's guemesislandferry e-mail list as: DeanJ@arcreports.com.

To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-1663881-764134.b0c76f78e3e948cb96ca883b9493478e@lists.skagitcounty.net

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From: RobertHAnderson
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Guemes Ferry
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:51:30 AM

If there needs to be a modest surcharge to move the ferry from fossil fuels to electric, I am happy to support it. It is other larger items (like the \$400 increase in my property tax in 2018) that are the items in my fixed retirement budget that are impossible to absorb - where one has no option for increasing the income side of one's budget and eventually forces us to move to somewhere cheaper to live.

(Rev.) Robert Anderson, 6966 Holiday Blvd. Guemes Island, Anacortes, WA.

From: Ray Vardy
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Guemes Island Ferry Surcharge
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 10:37:52 AM

TO Whom it May Concern:

First, What was the criteria used to determine that the current vessel was at the end of it's useful life? Was the group or persons affiliated with this group that made this determination in a position to benefit from such a finding?

What ever happens with the decision to replace the current ferry it's very like the current ferry will be sold to some municipality and carry on the same service for many years. Commercial vessel have a very long life as can be seen from the fleet of Washington State ferries. There exist a monthly publications that lists the sale of these types of vessels.

In regard to the surcharge for a new ferry or increased operational expenses: A surcharge is a much more appropriate method for paying for replacement or increased operational expenses. The concept of special taxing districts or punishing property tax increases does not fairly share the cost with the ridership. Many ferry riders especially during the peak months have no property for which they pay taxes. Creating a use fee spreads the cost to all that use the ferry, which would be more equitable for all concerned.

From: Bruce Baglien
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Replacement Surcharge
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 11:13:52 PM

To whom it may concern,

Yes, a surcharge would be appropriate in this circumstance.

It would be beneficial to the county to require that the propulsion system be electric. There is every indication that it would be much less expensive to operate in the long run. Keeping the ferry operational for 50 years should be part of the design perimeter.

Actually, the existing ferry most likely could be used for several more years giving the county time to acquire the funds necessary for the construction of a ferry capable of being used for 50 years that does not require intensive maintenance due to and antiquated ice propulsion system.

Look to the excessive number of management staff for savings to accomplish the goal of replacing the ferry.

Respectfully,

Bruce Baglien
1303 7th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360 202-0856
brucebaglien@msn.com

From: Katharine Finks
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 9:05:23 PM

I think the new fares are fair. I hope that it will not be too much hardship on those with the lowest incomes, but it seems best to replace the ferry now rather than later.

Katharine Finks
5998 Dunthorne
Anacortes, WA 98221

From: Allen Hodgson
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Let them pay the WHOLE cost
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:34:44 PM

Stop paying for the Guemes Ferry cost. Let Guemes Island residents pay for the WHOLE cost!!

From: Rod Brown
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 4:12:47 PM

The 1\$ surcharge seems to be about the fairest way possible to try and raise the funds required for a replacement ferry. I am sure everyone is concerned about the additional costs but I am unclear how else you help raise the funds required. However I also need to be clear I am off islander and I am very sensitive to those that live on the island year round. I am generally only there for the summer months until I retire in couple of years.

Rod Brown

From: outlook_A5FDBB18678E0D1B@outlook.com
To: [Ferry Comments](#)
Subject: Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharg
Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 2:19:03 PM

The process of adopting the surcharge and the content of the surcharge Resolution itself should address the challenge of avoiding pricing people off Guemes Island. I expect this matter has been on everyone's mind. The Guemes Island Ferry Committee addressed it in its letter to you of December 19, 2017, but so far it hasn't made its way into the Project documentation.

During and after the expulsion of its native people, Guemes has been home to newer families who found the Island a good place to raise children and the ferry commute to work and schools unforbidding. Likewise, the Island is home to quite a number of small businesses whose entrepreneurs found the Island a good base of operations despite, or maybe because of, the mild inconvenience of ferry-only access.

These are people who have greatly contributed to the development of Guemes, its values and character. They are essential to maintaining the community and values that make the Island the special place it is. I do not have all the Island demographics and economic data in front of me, but I feel confident in saying that for most of the resident young families and aspiring businesses, as well as some older people on limited incomes, the expense of ferry tolls and taxes is a real factor in budgets.

It needs to be a serious, directly addressed and accommodated aspect of decisions about funding a replacement boat, beyond our routinely expressed goals of "safety, efficiency, and affordability" in a new vessel.

Earlier this year the Ferry Committee suggested to Public Works that the possibility of a needs-based fare discount warranted investigation. The Committee was encouraged to pursue that idea. I and others have investigated the fare discount program that has been in place in Whatcom County for years. It seems to fit the Skagit situation, too. We intend soon to have a written proposal for you for a similar Skagit program.

I know there are rules that make communication difficult for the Board. But it would be really, really helpful on several fronts if the Board could somehow signal that a needs-based fare discount program is something the Board would consider incorporating into the Ferry Replacement Project. Such a signal, perhaps endorsing consideration of the idea by Public Works, would not be out of place in the surcharge Resolution under consideration here.

I have suggested specific language to the Ferry Division Manager and I respectfully ask that the language be incorporated into the Resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Bud Ullman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

RECEIVED

APR 02 2018

SKAGIT COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN

Howard Pellett
5293 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-8128
howardp71@gmail.com

Skagit County Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Regarding Ferry Vessel Replacement Surcharge

I am opposed to the ferry vessel replacement surcharge in any form whatsoever.

Howard Pellett

RECEIVED

APR 20 2018

SKAGIT COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN

Dawn Ashbach
5538 Guemes Island Road
Anacortes, WA 98221

Skagit County Commissioners
Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

April 14, 2018

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for addressing Guemes Island transportation issues. I trust that appropriate steps are being taken to insure logical decisions are made.

- I suggest that a marine survey is needed to determine viability of existing ferry. We need a profesional surveyor to determine if the M/V Guemes has years of useful hull life.
- If there are many years of hull use, consideration can be given to changes to its propulsion.
- If M/V Guemes does not need to be replaced, I question the need for a surcharge.
- We need to compare the price of replacing M/V Guemes with an electric ferry, a hybrid ferry, or a repurposed M/V Guemes with up-to-date turbo diesel engine technology.
- Before decisions are made, examine reasonable funding sources. (Don't buy something if you don't have a plan to pay for it.)
- I am not in favor of creating a new tax district to pay for a new ferry which has been proposed as a funding source. A new ferry would also require new piers on both sides, an additional expense. Property taxes have been steadily climbing, this additional tax would make staying in one's home difficult for many.
- There are options to help the ferry run more cost efficiently. An improved ticket system, speeding up the loading process, is only one idea.

Thank you,


Dawn Ashbach

FINANCING THE NEW SKAGIT COUNTY FERRY

A one million dollar yearly stream of income would finance a \$13 million 20 year 5 percent bond or a \$15 million 25 year bond. These amounts would be enough to purchase a 24 or 28 car diesel ferry.

Yearly Income stream

\$400,000—From CRAB

\$400,000-- County road fund. I appreciate that a countywide ferry district tax is a non starter. However, the county is now paying close to \$1 million a year for maintenance, so designating a set amount from the road fund should be more viable.

\$200,000—From Guemes islanders. This could be raised as follows

\$40,000-- Real Estate Excise Tax on Guemes Is. properties

\$60,000--Ferry district tax of 20 cent per thousand. This would amount to
\$100 for a \$500,000 piece of property.

\$100,000-- A \$1 ferry ticket surcharge on vehicles.

This would raise \$ 4 million from Guemes Islanders over 20 years. A significant amount.

The ferry is critical for Guemes Island. From a financial standpoint it maintains our property values. Without a ferry, values could drop 50 percent. Since the county collects about \$1.2 million in total taxes from Guemes each year, such a drop would reduce county revenues by about \$600,000 a year. It would impact all property owners on Guemes including those who rarely use the ferry so they also have a vested interest in an operating ferry.

The above financing would get us a basic ferry. If additional funds can be obtained for an all electric ferry- great. But if we could agree on something like the above we would know that we can purchase a dependable ferry.

John Hopkins