Skagit County Ferry Replacement News

September 2017

Public meeting recap

The Skagit County Commissioners and Glosten thank the approximately 180 people who attended the Aug. 29 community meeting on Guemes Island to discuss the Ferry Replacement Project.

An explanation as to why the M/V Guemes needs to be replaced kicked off the meeting. Due to its advanced age, and the high cost of operating and maintaining the vessel beyond its useful life, Skagit County has determined an immediate need to replace the vessel.

The Commissioners' vision is to replace the M/V Guemes with an all-electric, battery-powered vessel. They approved a one-year, $513,742 contract with Seattle-based naval architecture firm Glosten on Aug. 7 to begin design and analysis of a new vessel. Preliminary design, including propulsion system options, structure, mechanical and electrical systems, and 3D modeling, is expected to be complete by Dec. 31, 2017. A new vessel could be in service as early as 2020.

Completing the preliminary design before the end of the year allows the County to apply for up to $10 million in reimbursable funding for the project from the state's County Ferry Capital Improvement Program. Funding through the CFCIP program is only available once every four years.

Staff from Skagit County Public Works and naval architect Glosten explained the process of studying and beginning design of a new vessel.

Audio and video recordings of the meeting and PowerPoint presentations, including notes about the project, can be found online at http://bit.ly/GuemesFerryReplacement. You can also can find frequently asked questions and peruse comments submitted after the meeting.

Ferry Committee meetings set

The Guemes Island Ferry Committee and staff from Skagit County Public Works met Friday, Sept. 1, at the Anacortes Library to discuss the Guemes Ferry Replacement Project, among other topics.

The Ferry Committee and Public Works representatives will meet monthly to focus on progress with the Ferry Replacement Project. Future meetings at the Anacortes Library are scheduled from 2 to 3:50 p.m. on the following dates:

- ► Friday, Oct. 6
- ► Friday. Nov. 3
- ► Friday, Dec. 1

The listed Ferry Committee meetings with Public Works are open to the public.

GIVE US YOUR FERRY INPUT

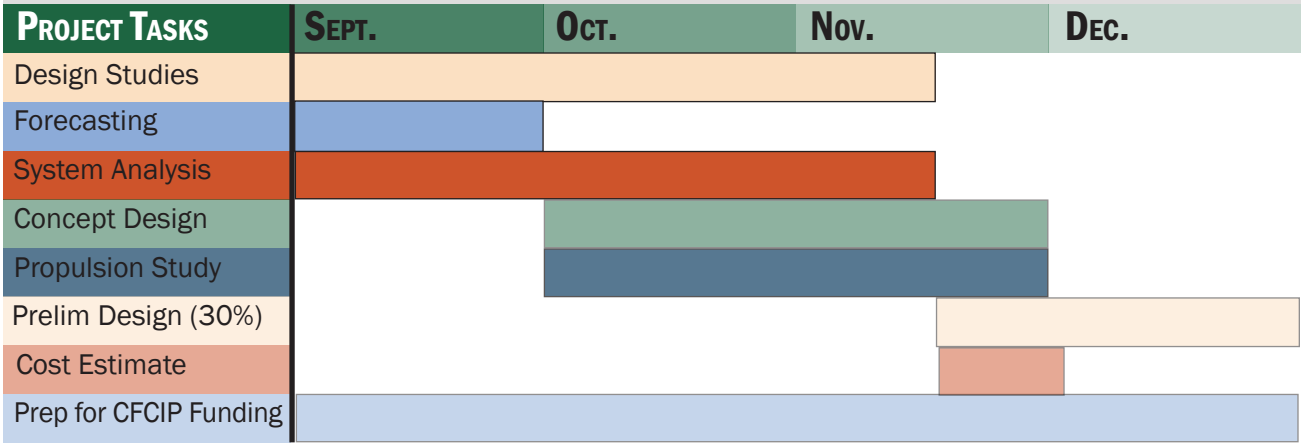
► We have a NEW way for you to share feedback.

► Please take our survey about your current ferry use AND share ideas for the new ferry:

publicinput.com/1970

Capt. Rachel Rowe | 360-416-1400 | rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us | www.skagitcounty.net/ferryreplacement

Phase 1: Estimated Project Schedule



Brush up on electric ferries

Electric vessel technology isn't new, but it's making a comeback. The links below give you an inside look into electric propulsion and how it's being used:

► **All-electric: The Future of Ferry Propulsion** (Pacific Maritime Magazine, March 2017; bit.ly/2vPG1sz)

► **Two massive ferries are about to become the biggest all-electric ships in the world** (Electrek, August 2017; bit.ly/2y0glen)

► **Setting a Course for Carbon-Free Shipping** (Siemens; http://sie.ag/2y3kcYd)

Electric boats: An old idea?

Electric boats have been around since the 19th century. The first recorded launch of an electric boat was September 1838 on the Neva River in Russia. The 28-foot paddleboat carried 14 passengers and used zinc batteries that weighed almost 400 pounds.

The invention and later improvement of rechargeable batteries in the 1860s led to commercial production of electric boats. Electric vessels flourished from the 1880s to the 1920s when the internal combustion engine began its ascendance as a popular marine propulsion choice.

The Buena Vista ferry began service across the Willamette River in Oregon in 1852 and converted to overhead electric wires in 1937. Its current all-electric vessel went into service in 2011, powered by an electric cable from shore. The Wheatland and Canby ferries, in operation since 1844 and 1914, respectively, currently use all-electric cables to carry up to nine cars and 49 passengers across the Willamette River.

The Ampere, the world's first all-electric, battery-operated car and passenger ferry, was launched in Norway in May, 2015. Two 780-foot, 8,414-ton car and passenger ferries will launch soon to service a 2.5-mile route from Sweden to Denmark.

Ferry replacement funding

The potential sources of funding that the County is actively pursuing include the following:

• Department of Ecology - Volkswagen Settlement Funds

• County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP)

In April 2017, Public Works presented the Guemes Ferry Replacement Project to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) for the purpose of asking them to issue a call for projects for the CFCIP.

At the meeting, CRAB issued a call for projects.

Project applications are due Dec. 31.

CFCIP funding

► Maximum award funding is $10 million, provided the County contribute a cost share.

► $10 million would be paid out at no more than $500,000/year for a 20-year period.

FERRY EMAIL UPDATES: ► visit skagitcounty.net/email ► click "Guemes Island Ferry Information"