

2013 FARE PROPOSAL

IMPLEMENTATION DATES

OCTOBER 1, 2013

MAY 1, 2014



Washington State
Transportation Commission

PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ROUTE FARES: ANACORTES - SIDNEY

June – July 2013

WSF operates between Anacortes; Sidney, B.C.; and the San Juan Islands in the north sound. These routes are unique within WSF, as routes serving Sidney exclusively carry non-commuting riders and face competition from other ferry service providers. WSF's two primary competitors for Sidney service are BC Ferries and Black Ball.

Because of this competitive landscape, fares on routes to and from Sidney are excluded from Tariff Route Equity policies that guide fare setting on all other routes. Instead, they are set through an annual market screen that takes into account the competitive landscape and the overall cost recovery for Sidney routes.

2013 PROPOSAL

Based on the results of the market screen comparing WSF's different fare categories to those of its primary competitors, the Commission is proposing one set of fare changes for standard-sized vehicles/driver and passenger fares, and a separate set of fare changes for oversize vehicles (22' and longer).

Standard Vehicle/Driver and Passenger Fares

Currently, WSF's peak season vehicle/driver fare (\$59.85, including the capital surcharge) is lower than BC Ferries' equivalent fare (\$66.75). In order to move WSF fares toward parity with BC Ferries, the Commission's 2013 fare proposal includes the following fare adjustments on the Anacortes-Sidney route:

- **Implement a 4.1% increase on Anacortes-Sidney vehicle and passenger fares on October 1, 2013.** On April 1, 2013, BC Ferries increased its fares by 4.1%. Raising WSF's fares by the same percentage will ensure their fares keep pace with BC Ferries over time.
- **Implement a 2.5% increase on Anacortes-Sidney vehicle and passenger fares on May 1, 2014.** For the 2014 fare change, the Commission is proposing applying a 2.5% fare increase to vehicle and passenger fares on this route. Barring additional increases by BC Ferries, this will continue to move WSF's fares closer to parity with BC Ferries' fares.

Oversize Vehicle Fares

Since 2004, WSF has had a tourism-oriented discount on the Anacortes-Sidney route whereby recreational vehicles (RVs) and buses get a 50% discount from the oversize vehicle fares paid by commercial vehicles. Since commercial traffic is no longer allowed to travel on the Sidney route, the half-fare is now the only fare charged on this route.

In order to improve fare simplicity and remove unused fare categories from the fare structure, the Commission is proposing to consolidate the full-fare and half-fare categories into a single fare category for oversize vehicles.



To reflect the findings from the competitive market screen, the Commission is proposing the following fare changes to better align oversize fares between WSF and its competitors:

- **Implement oversize fares at 5.1% above the current recreational vehicle and bus fare on October 1, 2013.** Setting the new, consolidated fare category at a level 5.1% above the current half-fare will align WSF's oversize vehicle fares with BC Ferries' oversize vehicle fares for the most common oversize fare categories, which include vehicles 22' to 49' long.
- **Implement a 2.5% increase on Anacortes-Sidney oversize vehicle fares on May 1, 2014.** No additional market adjustment is necessary for 2014; this increase is the same as the 2014 increase applied to the standard vehicle/driver and passenger fares on this route.

