

2013 FARE PROPOSAL

IMPLEMENTATION DATES
OCTOBER 1, 2013
MAY 1, 2014



PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ROUTE FARES: SAN JUAN ISLANDS – SIDNEY ROUND TRIP

June – July 2013

WSF operates ferry trips between Anacortes and Sidney and between Friday Harbor and Sidney. Fares on these routes are set so trips between Anacortes and Sidney cost the same price whether or not they include a stop in the San Juan Islands.

This structure has proven to be confusing to customers because some of the fares seem non-intuitive. The upcoming Vehicle Reservation System in the San Juan Islands also provides an opportunity, given the improved technological capabilities of that system.

Current Fare Policy. WSF sells tickets for the following segments for travel between Sidney and the US. This table shows Peak Season full fare prices. The Anacortes-Shaw/Orcas fare is shown for comparison purposes.

Route	Toll Collection	14-22' Vehicle (Peak)
Anacortes to Sidney	One-way	\$59.85
Sidney to Anacortes	One-Way	\$59.85
Friday Harbor to Sidney	One-Way	\$30.75
Sidney to Friday Harbor	One-Way	\$59.85
Anacortes-Shaw/Orcas	Round-trip	\$48.30



The foundational elements of this fare structure are:

1. A one-way peak season trip between Anacortes and Sidney is \$59.85. The roundtrip cost is \$119.70. This fare is set via the annual market screen.
2. The one-way trip from Sidney to Friday Harbor is set at the same fare as Sidney to Anacortes because customers can travel free from Friday Harbor to Anacortes.
3. The one-way trip from Friday Harbor to Sidney was originally set as the difference between the fare from Anacortes to Sidney and the fare from Anacortes to Shaw/Orcas. The rationale for this was that customers who had purchased a ticket to the San Juan Islands (using Shaw/Orcas as the representative fare) could continue on to Sidney with no cost penalty compared to having originally set out from Anacortes to Sidney.

This relationship has changed over the years due primarily to policy changes in the San Juan Islands. In the mid 2000s, a higher peak season surcharge was implemented in the San Juan Islands, which would have lowered the Islands-Sidney fare if the relationship was kept stable. Given the revenue need during that era, it was decided that no fare would be decreased. Therefore, the Islands-Sidney fare has received either the general fare increase or the Sidney market screen increase instead of being calculated using the original relationship.

Given these changes, it is no longer possible to stop over in the San Juan Islands heading westbound without paying a cost penalty. A stopover in the eastbound direction is still no charge.

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In order to simplify fare collection and mitigate customer confusion, the Commission is proposing the following changes to San Juan Islands-Sidney fares:

- In 2013, raise one-way eastbound (Sidney to Friday Harbor) fares by the same percent as the Anacortes-Sidney route (4.1%) to maintain fare alignment. Hold one-way westbound (Friday Harbor to Sidney) fares stable.
- In 2014, eliminate one-way fares and institute a round-trip fare available from either the San Juans or Sidney that is priced proportionally to the cost of a round-trip from Anacortes-Sidney, based on the difference in distance between the two routes.

Setting this fare based on its proportional distance to the Anacortes-Sidney route will slightly reduce the cost of a round-trip between the San Juan Islands and Sidney, and will create a sustainable fare policy for determining fares on this route.

