

2013 FARE PROPOSAL

IMPLEMENTATION DATES
OCTOBER 1, 2013
MAY 1, 2014



PROPOSED CHANGES TO TARIFF REGULATORY LANGUAGE

June – July 2013

The Commission is proposing a number of changes in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). These changes are designed to address operational issues, update regulatory language to align with proposed fare changes, or refine language to better reflect current realities. The specific WAC language proposed by the Commission is outlined below.

Underlined language represents new text or additions to existing text, and strike-outs represent language proposed to be removed from the WAC.

Bulk Newspaper Freight Charge

Prior to 9/11 WSF offered a freight-only charge for the transport of goods on the ferry, to be collected at the other end of the run. One of the primary uses of the freight-only option was local newspaper companies, who could put paper bundles on the boat and have another individual pick them up on the other side. After 9/11, this was no longer allowed due to security concerns and this and other freight-only options were removed from the WAC. Since then, newspaper freight has been allowed to resume.

Proposed WAC Language. BULK NEWSPAPERS. Per 100 lbs. \$2.85 (Shipments exceeding 60,000 lbs. in any month shall be assessed \$1.42 per 100 lbs.) Daily newspapers, in bundles, to be received and delivered without receipt and subject to owner's risk, will be transported between ferry terminals on regular scheduled sailings.

Disabled Passenger with Attendant

Per ADA and federal grantee requirements, WSF offers a 50% discount for disabled passengers traveling on WSF. This discount applies when the disabled customer travels as a passenger or when they are the driver, where the discount is applied to the vehicle and driver fare. Disabled passengers who require attendant can, with an appropriate endorsement on their WSF Disability Travel permit, travel without any additional cost for the attendant.

When a disabled passenger arrives by vehicle with an attendant driver, the WAC provides that the attendant can travel for free by waiving the driver portion of the fare. However, if the disabled passenger chooses to use a vehicle multi-ride for travel, the total cost would be marginally higher compared to the scenario where the disabled person is driving and the attendant is the passenger (and allowed to travel for free). To remedy this situation, the Commission is proposing a minor addition to the vehicle multi-ride media language.

Proposed WAC Language. MULTIRIDE MEDIA - Shall be valid only for 90 days from date of purchase after which time the media shall not be accepted for passage. Remaining value will not be eligible for refund. For mail order deliveries, WSF may add additional days to allow for delivery time.

The vehicle/driver multi-ride card may be used for passage for an attendant driver plus one disabled passenger.

School Group Changes to Account for Adequate Life Jackets

Concerns have been raised recently by the Coast Guard about the potential for a situation where there may be an inadequate number of youth and child lifejackets on board when there are large groups of children traveling. An example of this is when there are multiple busloads of kids traveling to Camp Orkila on Orcas Island. In this situation it is possible that the number of children could exceed the regular compliment of lifejackets on that particular sailing.

To address this concern, the Commission is proposing to require advance notice when large groups of school-age children are expected to travel on a particular sailing. Given that these groups typically travel under the school groups provision in the fare WAC, the proposal would add a notification requirement to this section.

Proposed WAC Language. SCHOOL GROUPS - Passengers traveling in authorized school groups for institution-sponsored activities will be charged a flat rate of \$1 per walk-on group or per vehicle of students and/or advisors and staff. All school groups require a letter of authorization and prior notification. Notification shall be made no less than 72 hours before the scheduled departure and will include the expected number of school-age children that will be traveling to ensure WSF can satisfy U.S. Coast Guard lifesaving equipment requirements. Failure to provide adequate notification may result in delayed travel. Vehicles and drivers will be charged the fare applicable to vehicle size. The special school rate is \$2 on routes where one-point toll systems are in effect.

Changes to Promotional Fare Language

WSF currently has WAC authority to use promotional rates to enhance total revenue, within certain limitations. The Commission is proposing to expand WSF's current authority to include use of promotional fares to support tourism or special events, and to include permission to participate in multi-organizational promotions with other transportation providers.

Proposed WAC Language. PROMOTIONAL TOLLS - A promotional rate may be established at the discretion of the WSF Assistant Secretary, Executive Director for a specific discount in order to enhance total revenue and effective only at designated times on designated routes. A promotional fare product may also be established to support tourism or other special events. The promotional fare or product may be bundled and sold as part of a multi-party promotional program.

Reservations No-Show Charges

The current vehicle reservation deposit WAC allows WSF to collect a deposit of 25% to 100% of the applicable fare. This deposit applies to the eventual fare if a customer travels at their reserved time and is kept by WSF if the customer fails to use their reservation. However, WSF foresees an operational challenge with the deposit structure as it moves forward with implementation of the new vehicle reservation system on routes with round trip toll collection, as there would not be a separate deposit for each direction of travel to enforce reservation use for both portions of a customer's trip.



The Commission is proposing a no-show fee that could be charged in-lieu of a deposit on routes as necessary to support operations. The proposed no-show fee would work similarly to the deposit, in that it could be set at 25% to 100% of the fare, and will only be charged if a customer does not travel on the same business day as their reserved sailing.

Proposed WAC Language. VEHICLE RESERVATION DEPOSIT - Nonrefundable deposits for advance vehicle reservations may be established at a level of from 25 to 100 percent of the applicable fare. This is a deposit toward the fare and not an additional fee, and applies only to those routes where the legislature has approved the use of a reservation system. Where it is operationally necessary (routes where vehicle fares are collected in only one direction) or desirable (to increase operational efficiency at the terminal) a reservation no-show fee may be used in lieu of a deposit. The no-show fee will be limited to 25 to 100 percent of the equivalent one-way fare and will be charged if the customer does not travel within the same business day as their reserved sailing. Refunds may be available under certain circumstances

