

2017 FARE PROPOSAL

IMPLEMENTATION DATES

OCTOBER 1, 2017

OCTOBER 1, 2018



Washington State
Transportation Commission

PROPOSAL FOR FIRE DISTRICT FARE REGULATORY LANGUAGE

The Commission proposes that WSF should retain its authority to enter Fire District service sharing agreements in the future, but that reference to a 2011 service sharing pilot program should be removed from the WAC. To this end, October 2017 changes to the regulatory language follow.

Proposed WAC Language

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

WAC 468-300-020 FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DISTRICT FARE CONSIDERATION - At the discretion of the WSF Assistant Secretary, WSF may authorize no-fare or discounted fare passage on scheduled and/or special ferry sailings for fire departments and fire districts that provide contracted fire protection services for WSF ferry terminals and/or other WSF facilities within their jurisdiction. Such passage shall be considered full and complete consideration for such fire protection services, in lieu of annual payments for such services, to be so noted in such fire protection agreements.

The scope of such authorization includes designated fire department and fire district vehicles (see below), drivers and passengers en route to and from an emergency call, on ferry routes with a WSF terminal and/or other WSF facility served by a fire department or fire district pursuant to a WSF fire protection service agreement.

Authorized vehicles may include public fire department and fire district medical aid units, fire trucks, incident command and/or other vehicles dispatched to and returning from an emergency call. ~~WSF may implement such ferry passage on a pilot project basis to assess the operational, financial and administrative impact on WSF.~~

~~By June 30, 2011, WSF shall submit a written report to the Transportation Commission identifying such impacts with a recommendation whether to make such passage authorization a permanent component of the WSF ferry toll schedule.~~

Background

In 2009 WSTC added a provision in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that would permit WSF to enter mutually-beneficial service sharing agreements with fire districts. The inclusion was made at the request of Vashon Island Fire & Rescue (VIFR) which wanted to explore the option of a service exchange between the District and WSF, where VIFR would be have access to ferry services, for trips related to delivering emergency services, in exchange for waiving fees charged to WSF for fire protection services at the Vashon and Tahlequah terminals.

At that time, a pilot was launched where WSF and VIFR could assess the operational, financial, and administrative implications of such an arrangement, with a report on those items due in June 2011 to the WSTC. The pilot project determined that the arrangement was unlikely to be mutually beneficial and WSF would most likely experience annual revenue losses under a service sharing agreement. The revenue



collected for trips taken by emergency vehicles far exceeded the cost to WSF for protection services at the Vashon Heights and Tahlequah Ferry Terminals. Since the end of the pilot, there has been no further interest expressed to WSF by any local fire districts to consider potential service sharing agreements.

As part of a review of various WAC provisions and policy actions that are either old or not currently in use, the Commission considered two options related to the Fire District service sharing authority:

- Removing reference to the pilot program, but retaining WSF's authority to enter into a Fire District agreement in the future if circumstances change.
- Removing the Fire District Fare language altogether, given the fact that the 2011 pilot demonstrated that it was unlikely that these types of arrangements would be mutually beneficial.