Washington State Ferries
2040 Long Range Plan

Washington State Transportation Commission

Ray Deardorf, WSF Senior Planning Manager

April 17, 2018
Agenda

• Long Range Plan - Overview
  – Progress report
  – 2040 plan requirements
  – Legislative guidance
  – Operational strategies
  – Project timeline and public open houses
  – Initial findings – vessels and long term ridership forecasts
  – Operational strategies next steps
Accomplishments Since Last Plan

2009 Long Range Plan presented a vision for the future of the ferry system. What we have accomplished:

• Studied and implemented vehicle reservation systems

• Improved customer web experience for easier trip planning

• Building Mukilteo and Colman Dock ferry terminals

• Implemented pricing strategies to maximize use of vehicles space

• Built new vessels
What is required in the 2040 plan?

- 2009 WSF Long Range Plan
- Governor's Executive Order
- 2017/2019 Transportation Budget
- 2007 & 2017 Legislative Directive
- WSDOT Plans and Emphasis Areas
- 2013 Origin-destination survey results
2017 Legislative Guidance

Legislative proviso in 2017 transportation budget includes:

- Changes in demographics
- Propose adjustments to ferry routes
- Identify most appropriate replacement vessels
- Review dry dock needs
- Assess seismic vulnerability
- Evaluate strategies to spread peak demand
- Identify cost reduction opportunities
Operational Strategies

ESHB 2358, Session Law 2007, guides WSF’s planning efforts. RCW 47.60.327 includes:

• “The department shall develop, and the commission shall review, operational strategies to ensure that existing assets are fully utilized and to guide future investment decisions.”

• “After the commission reviews recommendations by the department, the commission and department shall make joint recommendations to the legislature for the improvement of operational strategies.”

• “Operational strategies must be reevaluated periodically and, at a minimum, before developing a new capital [long range] plan.”
Operational Strategies – 2009 Plan

Report from WSF/WSTC to legislature:

• Vehicle reservations
• Transit enhancements
• Fuel conservation
• Pricing strategies included:
  – Differentiate vehicle and passenger fares
  – Reservation system pricing
  – Fuel surcharge
Stakeholder Engagement

- Executive Advisory Group
- Ferry Advisory Committees
- WSF/WSDOT Teams
- Technical Advisory Group
- General Public
- Policy Advisory Group

Long Range Plan
Project Timeline

2017
July

2018
September
January
March
May
Summer

2019
Fall / Winter

Develop Long Range Plan

Ridership forecasting (Summer 2017 - February 2018)
Analysis (Winter - Spring)
Develop draft plan (Spring - Summer)
Progress report to Legislature (June)
Finalize plan (Fall)
Deliver final plan to Legislature (Jan 1, 2019)

Stakeholder engagement

Technical Advisory Group
Policy Advisory Group
Executive Advisory Group

Community engagement

We are here
Open houses
Explain long range planning process and gather community input to shape plan.

Public meetings
Review and comment on draft plan, 45 day public comment period.
# Open house schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Bainbridge Island</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Bainbridge Island Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Port Townsend</td>
<td>5-7 pm</td>
<td>Cotton Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Vashon Island</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>Vashon Island High School</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Bremerton</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Kitsap Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Southworth</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>John Sedgwick Jr. High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Clinton Community Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>San Juan Islands</td>
<td>3:30-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Brickworks</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>Kingston Village Green Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Fauntleroy</td>
<td>6-8 pm</td>
<td>Fauntleroy Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Online open house:** April 10 – May 11 at WSFlongrangeplan.com
Vessel Replacement

WSF’s current plans assume ferry vessels will last for 60 years. Between now and 2040, 13 vessels will be at or near the end of their planned lifespan.

*Hyak did not have a mid-life refurbishment. It is scheduled to be retired in 2019.
Ridership Forecast

Key Findings

• Over the last 15 years, yearly ferry ridership growth varied between -4 and +2.9 percent

• Annual growth forecasts by 2040:
  – Population: 1 percent
  – Households: 1.2 percent
  – Employment: 1.3 percent
  – Ferry ridership: 1.3 percent

• Overall ferry ridership growth by 2040: 30 + percent
WSF Ridership History (1993-2017) and Preliminary Forecast (2018-2040)

Sources: WSF Traffic History and WSF Baseline Ridership Forecasts
What will the system look like in 2040?

Ridership increases 30% system wide

Forecast based on rider survey data from PSRC and local jurisdictions
Looking Ahead – Operational Strategies

• Long range plan will identify moving ahead with some operational strategies
• After plan completion by January 2019:
  – Opportunity for WSDOT/WSF and Commission to review in greater depth
  – Development of joint recommendations to the legislature
Questions?

For more information, please contact:

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