

WSDOT Ferries Division: 2019/20 Ferry Fare Development Process

Ray Deardorf, Acting Director, Community Services and Planning
Washington State Transportation Commission

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WSF Fare Development: Presentation Outline

- Overview of Fare Development Process
 - FAC-T Membership Update
- Policies and Guidance
- Timeline of 2019/2020 Fare-setting cycle
- Revenue and Ridership Update
- 2019/2020 Fare Issues Review
- Public Outreach Plan
- Next Steps
- Q&A



Ferry Fare Development Process

Roles and responsibilities

- WSTC adopts fares through a rulemaking process; fares are effective for approximately one year **(RCW 47.60.315)**
- WSF conducts a review of its fares and develops a fare proposal for submittal to the WSTC for their consideration **(RCW 47.60.290)**
- WSF develops fare proposals with input from ferry users, by review of the affected FACs, and data gathered from FROG surveys **(RCW 47.60.290)**



Ferry Fare Development: FAC-T Membership Update

Current FAC-T Membership (per most recent charter):

- Ferry Advisory Committee chairs or their designees (approximately 12)
- Transit (Sound Transit representative)
- Economic development (vacant)
- Freight/commercial (**WA Trucking Association representative**)
- Active transportation / bike & ped (**Bicycle/pedestrian representative**)
- Tourism (vacant)
- WSDOT Finance (ex-officio)
- WSTC (ex-officio)



Additional Membership positions filled:

- Second transit representative (**Kitsap Transit representative**)
- Special needs ridership (ADA, human services – **Whidbey Island Veterans Resource Center Representative**)
- Regional transportation planners (**Puget Sound Regional Council Representative**)

Fare Review Process Timeline

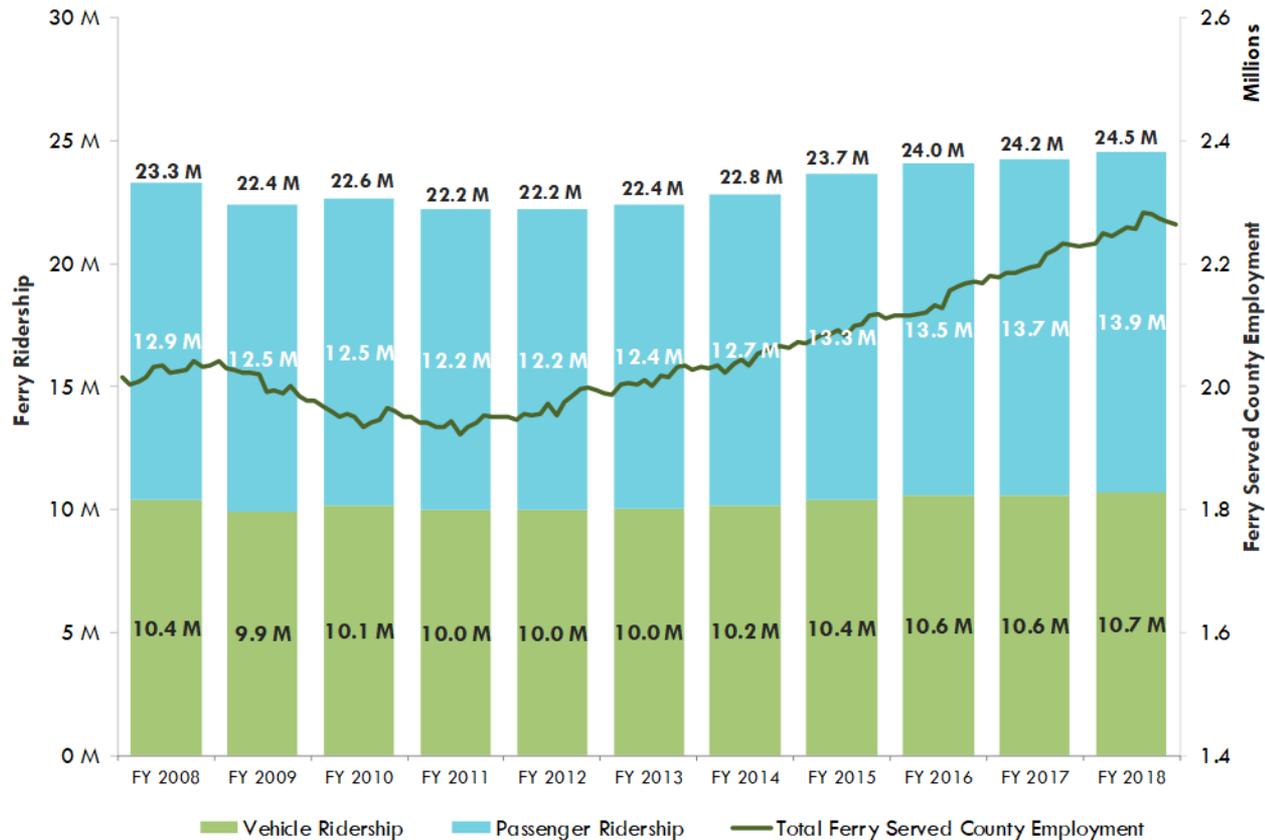
Milestone	Current Date
Ferries Team/WSF Staff Meetings	October and December 2018
WSTC Presentation	January 2019
Begin FAC-T Meetings	February 2019
WSTC Presentation	April 2019
Adopted Budget	Mid/Late April 2019
CR 101 Filing	NLT 5/1/19
Public Outreach on Fare Issues	May 2019
CR 102 Filing	June 14 – July 3, 2019
Fare Proposal to WSTC	June 18/19 2019
Public Comment	Late July/Early August
Public Hearing	August 6, 2019
CR 103 Filing	NLT 8/30/19
Fares Take Effect	Oct 1, 2019

Ferry Fare Development: FAC-T Engagement

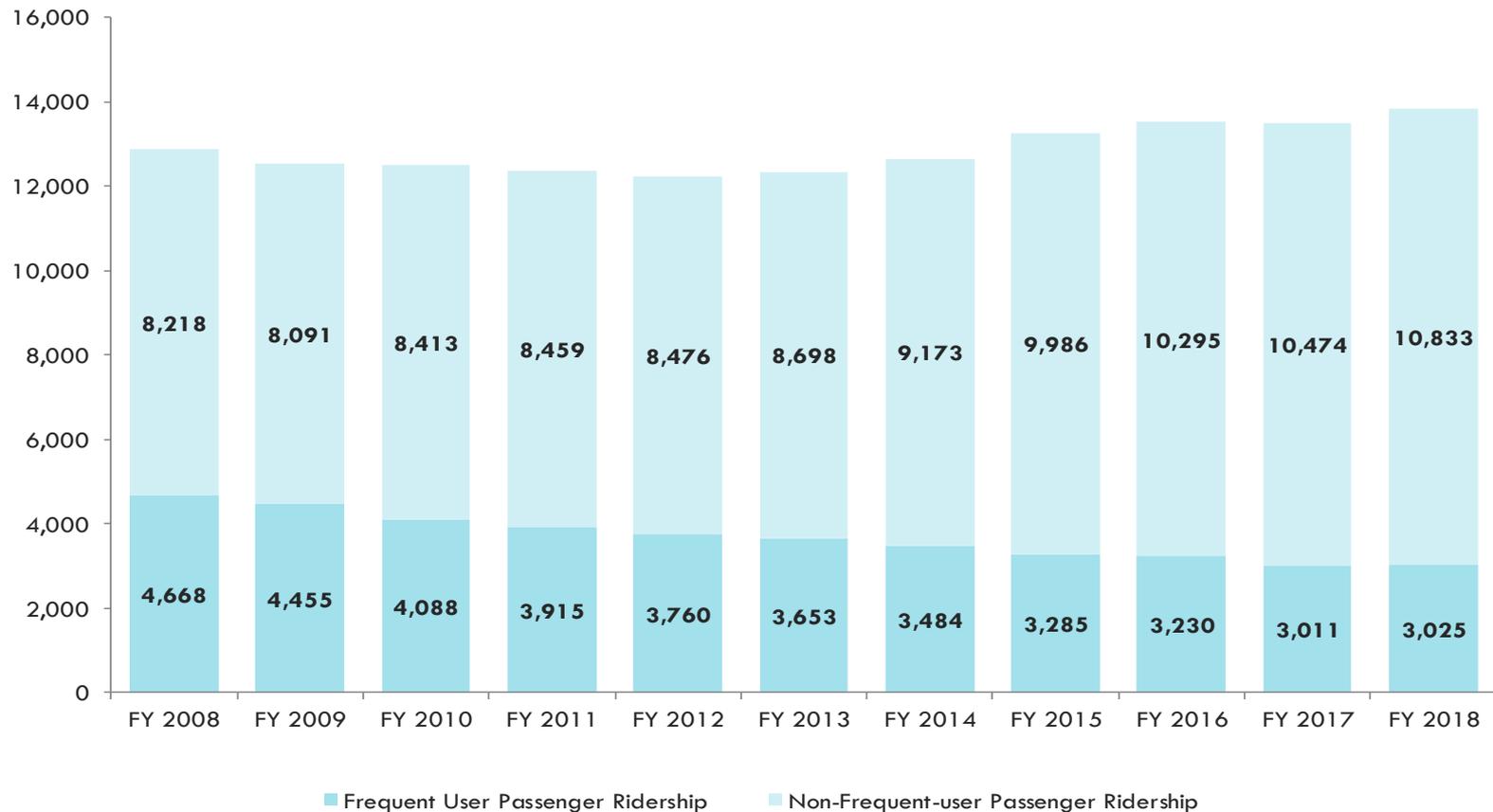
- **Meetings to date:**
 - February 28: Overview of process and initial issue identification
 - March 13: International market screen, reservation cancellation, ORCA LIFT program participation, small vehicle update, capital surcharge fee
 - April 9: *Good to Go!* pilot program participation, transportation demand management, bicycle surcharge elimination, under/over 7'2", carry-over issues
- **Planned meetings**
 - May 8: General fare increase, disability charge language, carry-over issues
 - June 5: Carry-over issues, summary of public feedback

Ferry Fare Development: Revenue and Ridership Update

Ridership and Employment, FY2008-FY2018

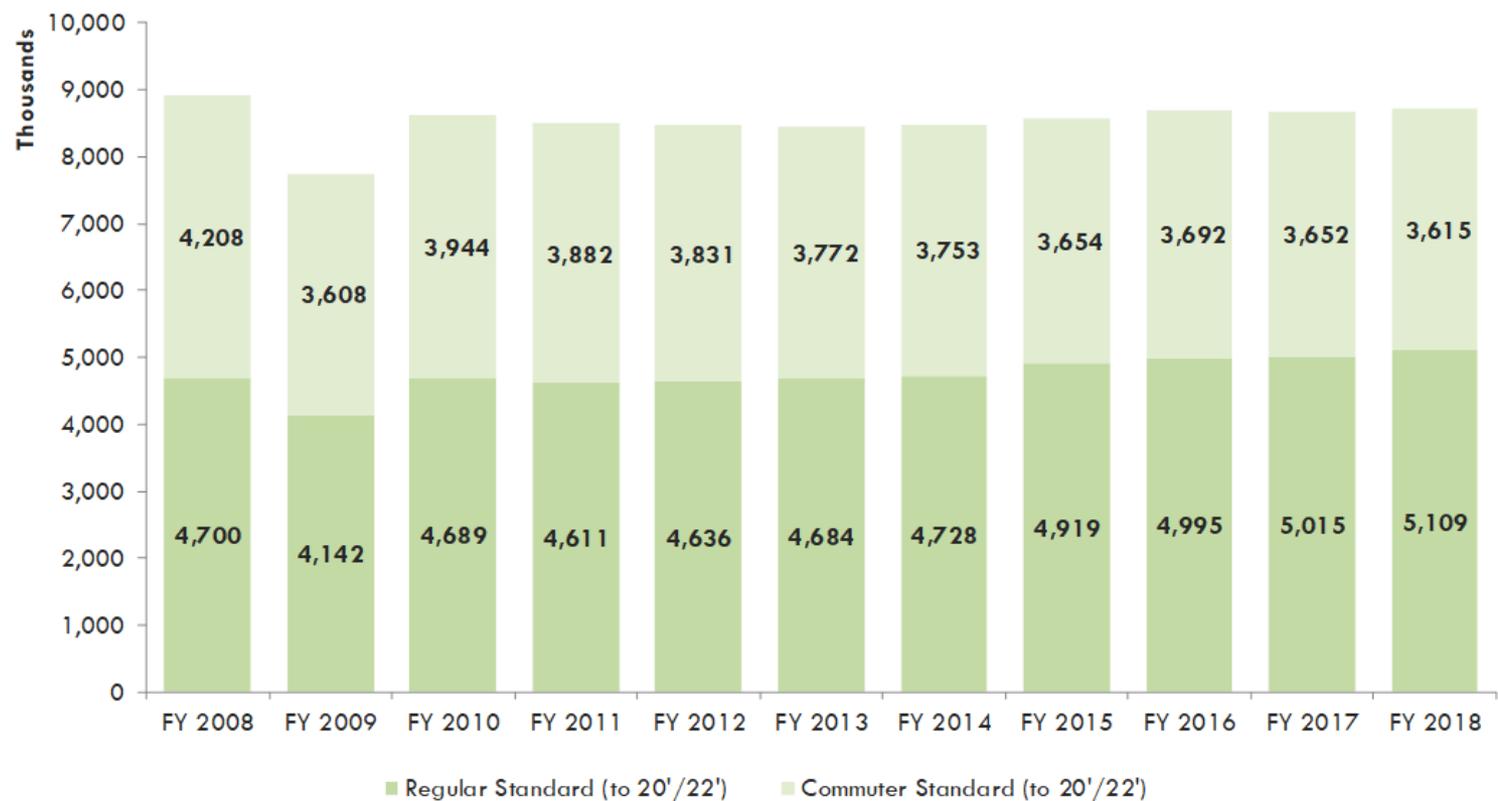


Ferry Fare Development: Revenue and Ridership Update



Ferry Fare Development: Revenue and Ridership Update

Standard Size Vehicle Ridership by Category, FY2008-FY2018



Ferry Fare Development: Revenue and Ridership Update

- **How did we do compared to forecasts?**
 - March 2017 fare revenue forecast, legislature's budget for 2017-2019 biennium: \$381.2 million for operations, \$8.0 million for capital
 - March 2019 fare revenue forecast for 2017-2019 biennium: \$382.2 million for operations, \$8.1 million for capital.

Ferry Fare Development: Tariff Review 2019/2020

Issues being reviewed this tariff cycle:

- General fare increase (dependent upon legislative action)
- International route market screen (including oversize vehicles)
- Effectiveness of demand management strategies (slight spreading of passenger and vehicle fares) over the last two cycles
- Evaluate the bicycle surcharge for mode shift and fare simplification opportunities
- Capital surcharge adjustments

Ferry Fare Development: Tariff Review 2019/2020

Issues being reviewed this tariff cycle:

- Consider fare simplification strategy recommendations
- Evaluate reservation cancellation fees to reduce no-shows
- Evaluate revenue requirements for participation in ORCA LIFT
- WAC language:
 - *Good to Go!* Pilot ability
 - Interisland Transfers
 - Under/Over 7'2"
 - Disability charge language

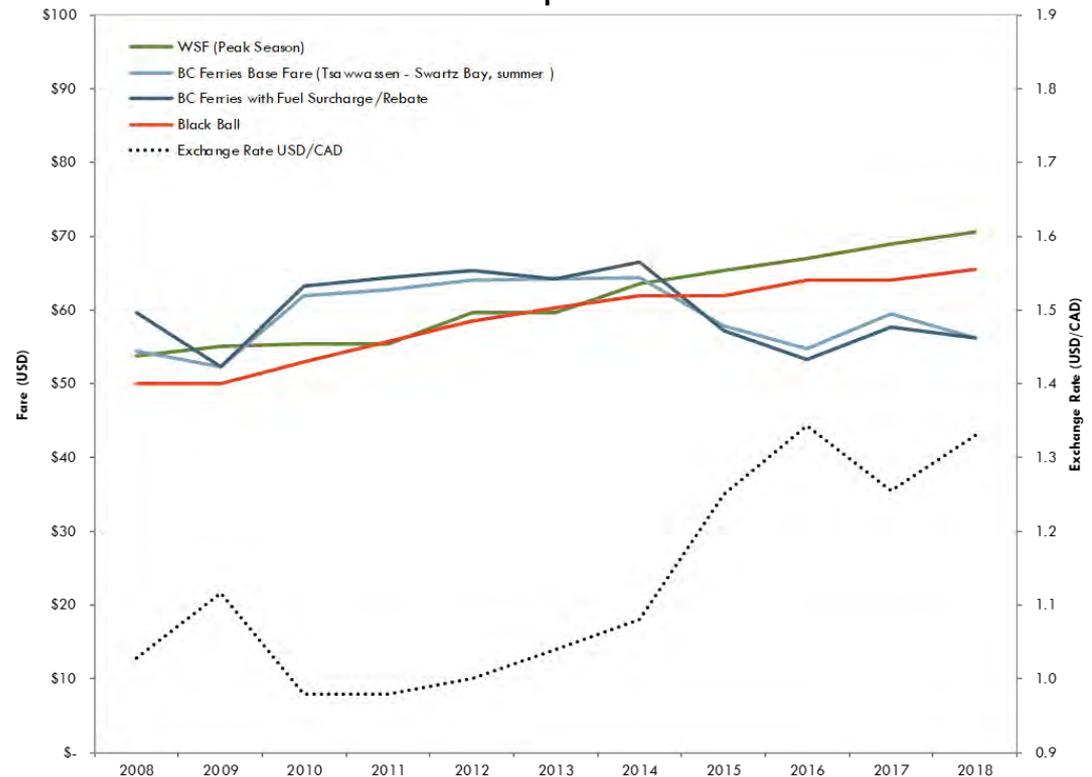
Fare Issues: International Market Screen

Issue Summary:

- WSF Sidney route passenger and vehicle fares compared to fares for Black Ball and BC Ferries routes to Vancouver Island to evaluate competitiveness.

Analysis:

- BC Ferries' fare changes have reduced WSF's price advantage.



Fare Issues: International Market Screen

Analysis:

- WSF's fares for oversize vehicles are below competitor fares for most length categories.

	WSF	BC FERRIES		BLACK BALL	
	Peak Fare	Low	High	Low	High
22' to Under 30', Under 7'2"	\$104.75	\$94.23	\$132.84	\$86.50	\$127.98
22' to Under 30', Over 7'2"	\$104.75	\$94.23	\$132.84	\$86.50	\$127.98
30' to Under 40'	\$140.15	\$133.33	\$181.71	\$128.50	\$180.48
40' to Under 50'	\$175.55	\$182.20	\$230.59	\$181.00	\$232.98
50' to Under 60'	\$210.95	\$231.08	\$279.46	\$233.50	\$285.48
60' to Under 70'	\$246.30	\$279.95	\$328.33	\$286.00	\$337.98
70' to Under 80'	\$281.70	\$328.82	\$377.20	\$338.50	\$390.48

Fare Issues: Reservation Cancellation Fee

Issue Summary

- Consideration of potential increase of no-show fees to 100% of the one-way fare to increase disincentive to no-show.

Analysis:

- Establishing no-show fees of 100% of the senior/disabled one-way fare increases the no-show fee and does not require a WAC language change.
- Could result in modest increase to the no-show fee.
- Minor changes to remove conflicting language

Anacortes - SJI		Max No-Show Fee		
Vehicle Size	Ana-Lop	Ana-Sh/Or	Ana-FH	
Motorcycle	\$ 5.58	\$ 6.28	\$ 7.05	
Under 14'	\$ 10.48	\$ 13.28	\$ 16.38	

Port Townsend - Coupeville		Max No-Show Fee	
Vehicle Size			
Motorcycle		\$	3.45
Under 14'		\$	7.65

Anacortes - Sidney		Max No-Show Fee	
Vehicle Size	Ana-Sid Sid-SJI	SJI-Sid	
Motorcycle	\$ 17.40	\$ 10.80	
Under 14'	\$ 35.50	\$ 22.00	

Fare Issues: Transfers in the San Juan Islands

Issue Summary

- Evaluation of WAC language changes to eliminate misuse of interisland vehicle transfers and consideration of the Anacortes to San Juan Islands oversize transfer fee.

Proposed WAC changes:

- Change transfer use period from “24-period” to “end of the service day.”
- Changes to allow for oversize transfers to be made available for a stopover at an intermediate island with the purchase of the full fare for the furthest destination.

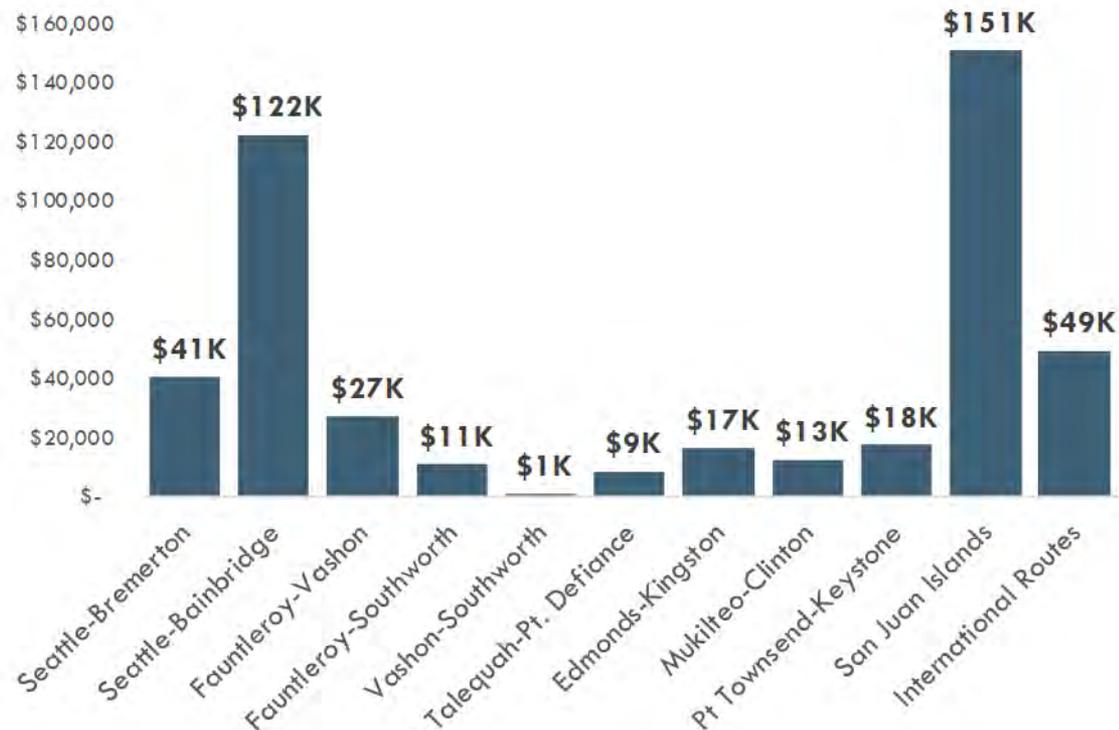
Fare Issues: Bicycle Surcharge

Issue Summary

- Evaluation of impact of eliminating the bicycle surcharge to promote multimodal transportation and fare simplification.

Analysis:

- FY 2018 Bicycle surcharge revenues totaled \$458,000.



Fare Issues: ORCA LIFT Participation

Issue Summary

- Review implications of participating in the ORCA LIFT program, through which multiple transit agencies are offsetting transportation costs for low-income residents.

Analysis:

- BERK estimated that 2.6% of all ferry trips would be LIFT trips, representing a 1.3% annual revenue loss – this translates to about \$2.4 million.
- To be eligible, riders would need to go through income verification at an ORCA LIFT enrollment center. Centers contract with King County for ORCA LIFT income verification services and are available in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

Fare Issues:

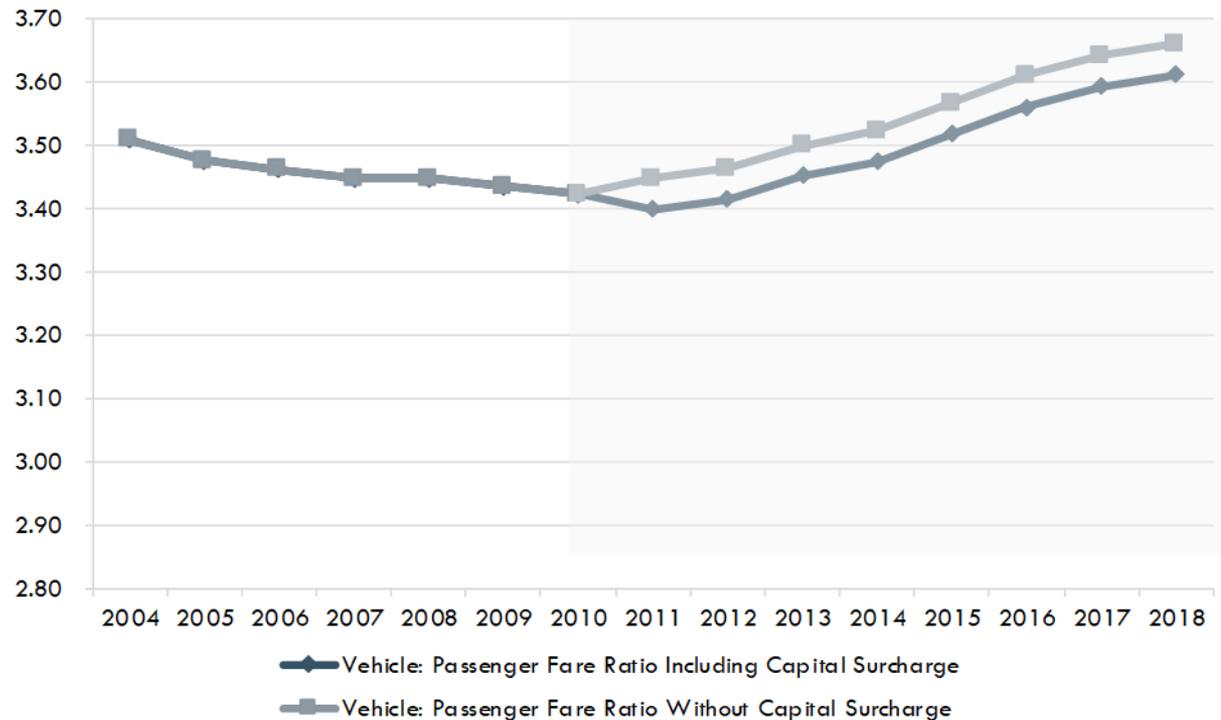
Transportation Demand Management

Issue Summary:

- Review of historic vehicle-passenger differential increases and comparison of vehicle to passenger ratios with and without the capital surcharge to evaluate impact.

Analysis:

- The current capital surcharge level reduces the vehicle:passenger fare ratio.



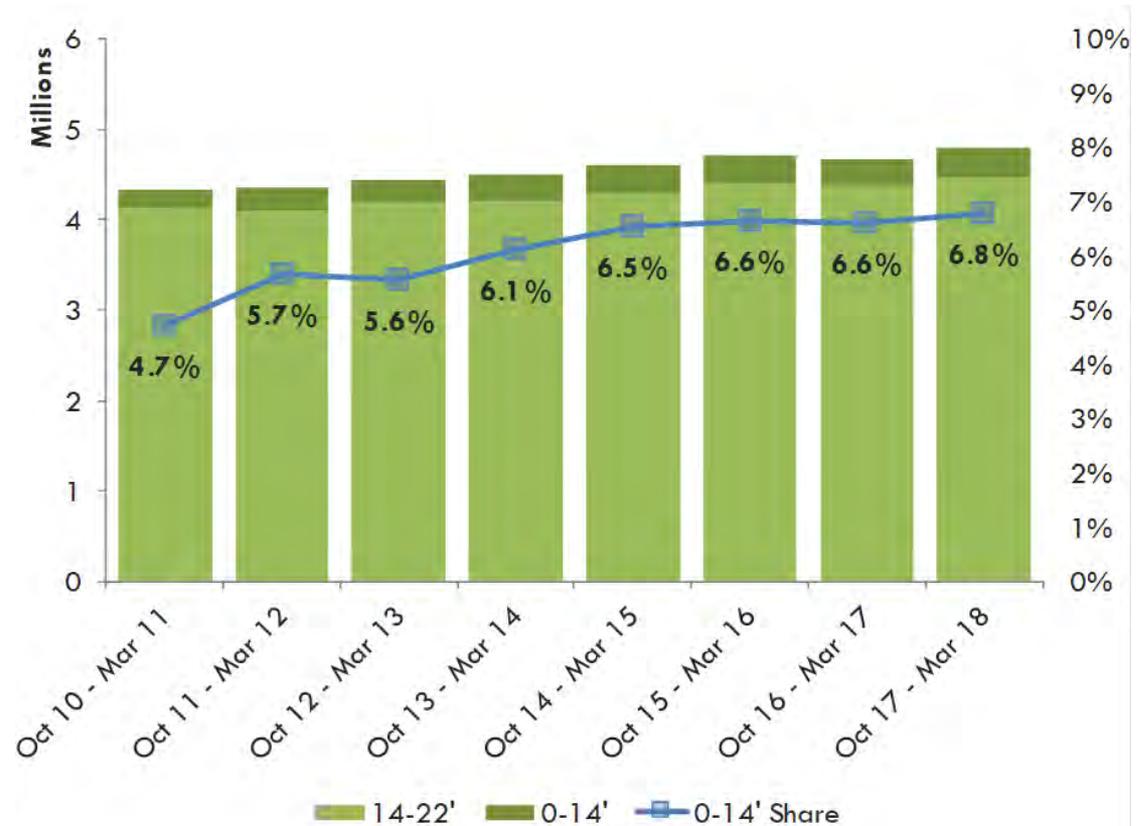
Fare Issues: Small Vehicle Verification

Issue Summary

- Review of effectiveness of the 14' small vehicle cutoff.

Analysis:

- Share of vehicles in the 0-14' category continues to increase.



Fare Issues: Capital Surcharge

Legislative proposals could increase capital surcharges significantly.

2019 Legislative Session Capital Surcharge Comparisons

Fare Category	Fare Type	Current Surcharge	SSB 5992		HB 2161	
			Additional	Total	Additional	Total
Vehicle	Full fare	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.75	\$ 1.00
Vehicle	Multi-ride	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 1.00
Passenger	Full fare	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	\$ -	\$ 0.25
Passenger	Half fare	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.75	\$ -	\$ 0.25
Passenger	Multi ride	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.75	\$ -	\$ 0.25

Ferry Fare Development: Public Outreach Meetings

Spring 2019 Meeting Schedule

Kingston

Monday, April 29, 6 p.m.
Kingston Village Green Community Center
26159 Dulay Road NE, Kingston

Coupeville

Wednesday, May 1, 6 p.m.
Island County Commissioner's Hearing Room
1 NE 7th St., Coupeville

Bremerton

Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 p.m.
Kitsap Conference Center
100 Washington Ave., Bremerton

Bainbridge Island

Thursday, May 9, 6 p.m.
Bainbridge Island Senior Center
370 Brien Drive SE, Bainbridge Island

Anacortes

Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m.
City Hall Municipal Building
904 6th St., Anacortes

San Juan Islands

Wednesday, May 15, 5 p.m. Orcas
Senior Center
62 Henry Road, Eastsound

Southworth

Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m.
Harper Church
10384 SE Sedgwick Road,
Port Orchard

Mukilteo

Thursday, May 23, 6 p.m.
*Mukilteo Multimodal Terminal
project open house 5 - 6 p.m.*
Rosehill Community Center
304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo

Vashon Island

Thursday, May 30, 7 p.m.
Vashon Island High School
9600 SW 204th St., Vashon

Meeting Topics will include:

- Proposed changes to fares
- Implementation of the 2040 Long Range Plan
- Local projects specific to each route

Next Steps

- May – June 2019: final FAC-T meetings
- Late April: Regular legislative session ends; fare revenue target established
- May 1, 2019: File CR 101 notifying the opening of the tariff WAC sections
- Mid- to late May: Initial public outreach on fare issues
- June 18/19: WSDOT/WSF fare proposal to Commission
- June 14 to July 3, 2019: File CR 102 form with Commission fare proposal
- June/July 2019: Public comment period for Commission fare proposal
- August 6, 2019 or later: Commission holds adoption hearing on tariff proposal
- NLT August 30, 2019: File CR 103 with final amended tariff
- October 1, 2019: Adopted fares go into effect

Q&A

For additional information on the
2019/20 Ferry Fare Development Process,
please contact:

Ray Deardorf, Acting Director,
Community Services and Planning
(206) 515-3491 or Deardorf@wsdot.wa.gov