

WSDOT Ferries Division Fare Setting Process Update

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**Washington State Transportation Commission
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Presentation Outline – WSF Fare Setting

- Process and timeline
- Options for next steps depending on legislative action
- Issues this cycle

Tariff Review Process

Roles and responsibilities:

- The Transportation Commission is responsible for adopting fares through the rulemaking process
- WSF is responsible for conducting review of fares, and developing a fare proposal for submittal to the Commission for their consideration
- The Ferry Advisory Committee on Tariff (FAC-T) was created in 2010 to provide guidance in the fare setting process

2015/16 Tariff Cycle – Timeline

- **December – May:** FAC-T meetings
- **March 17, 2015:** briefing to Commission on process and issues
- **NLT April 22, 2015:** file CR 101 notifying the opening of the tariff WAC sections
- **Late April:** conclusion of regular legislative session and establishment of fare revenue target in the adopted budget
- **Mid/late May:** WSF fare proposal to Commission
- **NLT June 17, 2015:** file CR 102 form with Commission fare proposal

2015/16 Tariff Cycle – Timeline

- **July 2015:** Public comment period for Commission fare proposal
- **July 21, 2015 or later:** Commission holds adoption hearing on tariff proposal
- **NLT August 30, 2015:** file CR 103 with final amended tariff
- **October 1, 2015:** New tariff takes effect

2015/16 Tariff Cycle – Issues Reviewed

Issues for this tariff cycle:

- Evaluation of the passenger/vehicle fare ratio
- Re-examine the methodology of oversized vehicles
- International route market screen
- General fare increase – to be determined by the budget process
- Rules regarding the exemption of the height surcharge for vehicles carrying disabled passengers

Planning for future replacement of fare collection system

- “Back-end” frequency discounts
- Congestion or time of day pricing
- Vehicle fares – charging length based by foot
- These would not be part of the 2015/16 fare proposal

2015/16 Tariff Cycle – Completed Issues

Overheight surcharge for vehicles under 22'

Upon presentation by either the driver or passenger of a WSF Disability Travel Permit, Regional Reduced Fare Permit, or other identification which establishes disability, the overheight charge will be waived for vehicles equipped with wheel chair lift or other mechanism feature designed to accommodate the person with disability.

Overheight surcharge for vehicles 22' – under 30'

Upon presentation by either the driver or passenger of a WSF Disability Travel Permit, Regional Reduced Fare Permit, or other identification which establishes disability, ~~vehicles 22-30 feet in length and over 7'6" in height shall be charged the 22-30 foot length and under 7'6" in height~~ fare the overheight charge will be waived for vehicles equipped with wheelchair lift or other mechanism feature designed to accommodate the person with the disability.

2015/16 Tariff Cycle – Options

If no fare increase required by legislature's 2015-2017 budget:

1. Do not open the tariff for any modifications
2. Open the tariff for minor structural and/or language adjustments

If a fare increase or increases are required from the budget:

- One year or two year tariff?
- How many fare structure modifications for this tariff cycle?

Questions?

For more information, please contact:

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