

WSDOT Ferries Division: Low Income Fare Update

Washington State Transportation Commission

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WSF Low Income Fare Update Presentation Outline

- Low income fare pilot language approved in 2019
- Update of initial analysis
- Estimates of usage and fare revenue loss
- Timeline and next steps



2019 Tariff Cycle

Language adopted in WAC 468-300-010

- **LOW-INCOME FARE PILOT** - Starting no earlier than January 1, 2020, special passenger fare rate(s) may be established for a pilot program offering a low-income fare on any ferry route for riders made eligible through an existing transit agency's low-income fare program. Enactment of this program is dependent upon legislative funding for the pilot project. If funded, Washington State Ferries' Assistant Secretary shall submit a proposal to carry out this pilot program and the Washington State Transportation Commission must approve both the program and the fare schedule before it is implemented. Once implemented, WSF shall provide, at a minimum, updates to the Commission every six months on the pilot. The pilot will conclude no longer than three years from its implementation.



Initial Analysis - 2017

Initial work – 2017

- Looked at ORCA LIFT as a mechanism
- Eligibility – ages 19 to 64, household income less than 200% of federal poverty level
- Enrollment process
- Administration costs
- Fare revenue impacts



Fall 2019 Update



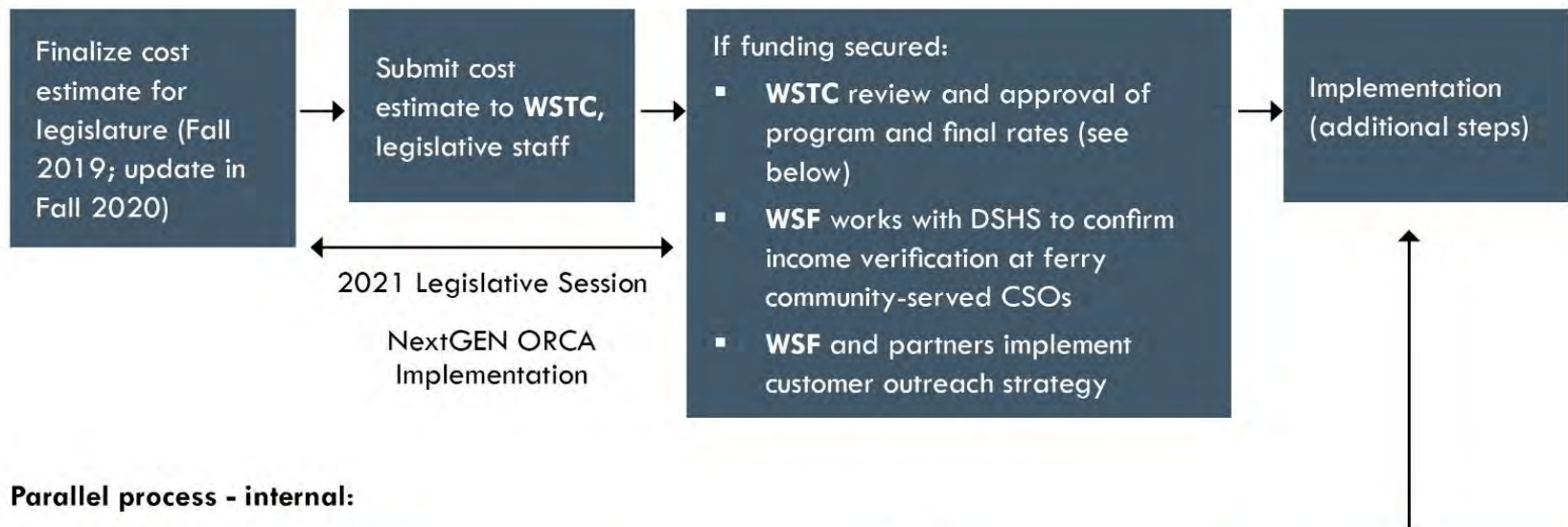
Update of analysis subsequent to adoption of 2019 fares:

- Potential users – about 175,000 trips/month
- Assuming discount would be at half fare
- Conservative fare loss estimated at \$2 million/year
- Recommend to wait until next generation ORCA is rolled out
- Administration costs still need review
- Recommendation to start pilot on a few routes rather than system-wide

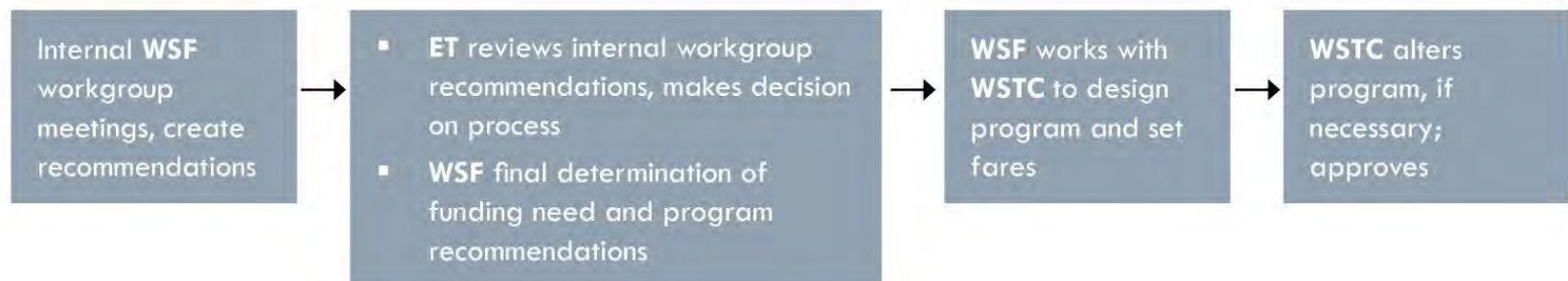
Next Steps

Low Income Fare Program Creation and Implementation Process

Begin Program Creation Fall 2020



Parallel process - internal:



Contact

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