June 2020 Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts

Washington State Ferries

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Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting
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Presentation Outline

- Update on WSF ridership and fare revenues
- Forecast development process
- Results of this forecast cycle
- Next forecast update – September
Current Status of Service

Current Status (1st week of July)

- No service between Anacortes and Sidney, B.C.
- Several routes on reduced service – Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, Seattle/Bremerton, Seattle/Bainbridge
- Intermittent reductions on other routes depending on crew availability
- Restoration of base service on these routes dependent upon the following:
  - Vessel availability – deferred maintenance work is now underway
  - Crewing availability
  - Ridership
  - Budget
WSF Ridership Since COVID-19

2020 WSF Ridership: All Routes

- 2/29: First COVID Death in Washington Governor declares State of Emergency
- 3/5: Major employers institute telework
- 3/5-12: Schools end in-person classes
- 3/17: Restaurants and bars close
- 3/25: Stay Home Order starts
- 3/29: WSF Winter Schedule extended, reduced service begins on select routes
- 5/5: Phase 1 starts
- 6/19: Phase 2 for King County, Phase 3 for Island County
# Fare Revenue and Ridership

## WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue
Comparison of March - May 2020 to February Forecast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>February Forecast</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March Ridership</td>
<td>1.93 million</td>
<td>993,000</td>
<td>(937,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April Ridership</td>
<td>1.95 million</td>
<td>522,500</td>
<td>(1,427,500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May Ridership</td>
<td>2.20 million</td>
<td>875,000</td>
<td>(1,327,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$14.97 million</td>
<td>$8.78 million</td>
<td>($6.19 million)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$15.22 million</td>
<td>$5.28 million</td>
<td>($9.93 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$20.28 million</td>
<td>$10.03 million</td>
<td>($10.25 million)</td>
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WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts

• WSF uses a complex econometric model to forecast ridership and fare revenue

• Updated quarterly for adoption by the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council

• Typically the February/March forecast cycle is used by the legislature to budget

• The June forecast dropped considerably from February

• Many uncertainties about the duration and intensity of COVID-19 impacts

• Fare revenues for the 2019/2021 biennium are forecasted to be $323 million, down $93 million from the $416 million forecasted in February.
Total Ferry Ridership Demand: June vs February Forecasts

[Graph showing ferry ridership data from FY 2013 to FY 2029, comparing February and June forecasts. The graph indicates a significant drop in ridership in FY 2020 followed by an increase in FY 2021 and beyond.]
Passenger Fare Ridership: June vs February Forecasts
Vehicle/Driver Fare Ridership: June vs February Forecasts

[Graph showing ridership forecasts for different vehicle categories from FY2013 to FY2029, with lines representing June and February forecasts for vehicle full-fare, commuter, other, and oversize categories.]
Next Forecast Cycle – September 2020

• Actual ridership and fare revenue through August
• Updated employment and other economic variables
• More clarity on COVID service impacts
Questions?

For more information on the WSF June Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts, please contact:

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