September 2020 Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts

Washington State Ferries

RAY DEARDORF, SENIOR PLANNING MANAGER
Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting
October 20, 2020
Presentation Outline

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

Current Status (3rd week of October)

- No service between Anacortes and Sidney, B.C.
- San Juan Islands on baseline winter schedule
- Two routes on reduced service – Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, Seattle/Bremerton, and reduced late night service on other routes
- 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
- 3/9-12: Schools and 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
- 6/28: One-boat weekend service on ED-KING and MUK-CL begins
- 8/22: Two-boat weekend service on ED-KING and MUK-CL resumes
- 8/30: Two-boat service on SEA-BI resumes

Notes: Preliminary data. Ridership is estimated based on fares paid.
## Fare Revenue and Ridership

**WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance**  
Comparison of June, July and August 2020 Actuals to June 2020 Forecasts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June Forecast</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Difference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June Ridership</td>
<td>1.28 million</td>
<td>1.12 million</td>
<td>-0.16 million</td>
<td>-12.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>July Ridership</td>
<td>1.52 million</td>
<td>1.39 million</td>
<td>-0.13 million</td>
<td>-8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>August Ridership</td>
<td>1.69 million</td>
<td>1.45 million</td>
<td>-0.25 million</td>
<td>-14.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$12.74 million</td>
<td>$12.87 million</td>
<td>+$0.14 million</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>July Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$14.00 million</td>
<td>$14.89 million</td>
<td>+$0.89 million</td>
<td>+6.4%</td>
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<td>August Fare Revenue</td>
<td>$15.55 million</td>
<td>$15.55 million</td>
<td>+$0.006 million</td>
<td>+0.0%</td>
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Fare Revenue and Ridership

June and February 2020 Forecasts vs. Actual Ridership

June 2020 Passenger Fare Ridership Forecast
February 2020 Passenger Fare Ridership Forecast

June 2020 Base Fare Revenue Forecast
February 2020 Base Fare Revenue Forecast

Actual Base Fare Revenue
June 2020 Base Fare Revenue Forecast
February 2020 Base Fare Revenue Forecast
WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts

• WSF uses complex econometric models to forecast ridership and fare revenue

• Forecasts updated quarterly for adoption by the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council

• The September forecast was slightly less than the June forecast through the end of CY 2022, and slightly higher thereafter; both forecasts dropped considerably from February’s pre-COVID projections

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

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<tr>
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<th>September Forecast</th>
<th>June Forecast</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/2021 Biennium</td>
<td>$312.2 million</td>
<td>$313.8 million</td>
<td>-$1.6 million</td>
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<td>Fare Revenues</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021/2023 Biennium</td>
<td>$395.1 million</td>
<td>$395.6 million</td>
<td>-$0.7 million</td>
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<td>Fare Revenues</td>
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Total Ferry Ridership Demand: September vs June Forecasts

Quarterly Ridership | Baseline September 2020 Forecast | Seasonally Adjusted

 Millions of Quarterly Riders | Seasonally Adjusted

June 2020 Total Riders | September 2020 Total Riders
Total Ferry Revenues: September vs June Forecasts

Monthly Farebox Revenue | September 2020 vs. June 2020 Baseline Forecasts

- Sep 2020 Total Farebox Revenues
- Jun 2020 Total Farebox Revenues
Total Ferry Ridership Demand: September vs February Forecasts

Quarterly Ridership | Baseline September 2020 Forecast | Seasonally Adjusted

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<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
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- **Feb 2020 Total Riders**: Red dashed line
- **Sep 2020 Total Riders**: Blue line
Total Ferry Revenues: September vs February Forecasts

Monthly Farebox Revenue | September 2020 vs February 2020 Baseline Forecasts

- Sep 2020 Total Farebox Revenues
- Feb 2020 Total Farebox Revenues
Next Forecast Cycle – November 2020

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

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

Ray Deardorf, Senior Planning Manager
(206) 515-3491 or Deardorf@wsdot.wa.gov