November 2020 Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts

Washington State Ferries

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Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting
December 15, 2020
Presentation Outline

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

Current Status (1st week of December)

- No service between Anacortes and Sidney, B.C.
- San Juan Islands on baseline winter schedule
- One route on reduced service – Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, and reduced late night service on other routes
- Restoration of base service on these routes dependent upon the following:
  - Vessel availability
  - Crewing availability
  - Ridership
  - Budget
WSF Ridership Since COVID-19
# Fare Revenue and Ridership

## WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance

Comparison of September and October 2020 Actuals to Sept. 2020 Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sept Forecast</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September Ridership</strong></td>
<td>1.21 million</td>
<td>1.27 million</td>
<td>+0.06 million</td>
<td>+5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October Ridership</strong></td>
<td>1.15 million</td>
<td>1.22 million</td>
<td>+0.07 million</td>
<td>+6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September Fare Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$13.04 million</td>
<td>$14.14 million</td>
<td>+$1.11 million</td>
<td>+8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October Fare Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$10.22 million</td>
<td>$11.70 million</td>
<td>+$1.48 million</td>
<td>+14.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts | November vs September

- WSF uses complex econometric models to forecast ridership and fare revenues by route and fare category.
- Forecasts updated quarterly for adoption by the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council.
- The November forecast was slightly higher than the September forecast in the current biennium and virtually unchanged for the next biennium.
- Many uncertainties remain about the duration and intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biennium</th>
<th>November Forecast</th>
<th>September Forecast</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/2021 Biennium Fare Revenues</td>
<td>$325.07 million</td>
<td>$321.63 million</td>
<td>+$3.44 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2023 Biennium Fare Revenues</td>
<td>$410.91 million</td>
<td>$410.92 million</td>
<td>−$0.01 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WSF Ridership and Fare Revenue Forecasts | November vs February

- The November forecast was considerably lower than the pre-COVID-19 February forecast in the current and subsequent biennia.
- Many uncertainties remain about the duration and intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>November Forecast</th>
<th>Pre-COVID-19 February Forecast</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/2021 Biennium Fare Revenues</td>
<td>$325.07 million</td>
<td>$416.22 million</td>
<td>–$91.15 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2023 Biennium Fare Revenues</td>
<td>$410.91 million</td>
<td>$435.73 million</td>
<td>–$24.82 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Total Ferry Ridership Demand: November vs February Forecasts

Quarterly Ridership | Baseline November 2020 Forecast | Seasonally Adjusted

- Feb 2020 Total Riders
- Nov 2020 Total Riders
Total Ferry Revenues: November vs February Forecasts

Monthly Farebox Revenue | November 2020 vs. February 2020 Baseline Forecasts

- Monthly Revenue in Millions of Dollars
- FY 2013 to FY 2029
Next Forecast Cycle – March 2021

- Actual ridership and fare revenue through February
- Updated population, employment and other economic variables
- Release of Governor’s budget
- More clarity on COVID impacts and likely 2021 service levels
Questions?

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

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