WSDOT Ferries Division: 2021/2022 Ferry Fare Development Process

Ray Deardorf, Senior Planning Manager
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Fare Review Process: Roles and Responsibilities

• WSTC responsible for adopting fares through the rulemaking process; it may adopt fares that are effective for more or less than one year, and may increase fares by a percentage that exceeds the fiscal growth factor.

• WSF is responsible for conducting fare review, 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 to WSF as it develops its fare proposal for the Commission; membership includes Ferry Advisory Committee chairs or their designees, and modal and market segment interests.
# Timeline of 2021/22 Tariff Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Current Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferries Team/WSF Staff Meetings</td>
<td>October 2020 and January 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSTC Presentation</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAC-T Meetings</td>
<td>March and April 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislature's Fare Revenue Budget</td>
<td>April 2021</td>
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<td>CR101</td>
<td>NLT 5/5/2021</td>
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<td>Fare Proposal to WSTC</td>
<td>May 18/19 2021</td>
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<td>CR102 Filing Window</td>
<td>June 18 – July 7</td>
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<td>Fare Proposal Public Outreach</td>
<td>June/July 2021</td>
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<td>Commission Adoption Hearing</td>
<td>August 10, 2021 or later</td>
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<tr>
<td>CR103 Filing</td>
<td>NLT 8/30/2021</td>
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<td>Fares Take Effect</td>
<td>October 1, 2021</td>
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Tariff Guiding Principles

- Charging vehicles based on space occupied
- Encourage modal shift by treating passenger and vehicle fares differently
- Differentiating fares by route based on distance and travel sheds
- Offering discounts to frequent customer
- Fare revenue generation
- Affordable service for riders who are low-income
- Transportation demand management strategies
- Incorporate legislatively directed capital surcharges
Simplified Approach for 2019/20

“In a normal year….”

- WSF and WSTC have explored significant structural fare policy changes with the FAC-T

- Complex fare proposals require significant public review and comment, difficult with COVID restrictions

- This year’s tariff review cycle will focus on the legislature’s fare revenue requirements and not on structural changes
FAC-T Membership

- Chairs of Ferry Advisory committees or their designees (approximately 12)
- Transit (Sound Transit and Kitsap Transit representatives)
- Economic development (vacant)
- Freight/commercial
- Bicycle and pedestrian
- Tourism (vacant)
- Human services/special needs
- Regional transportation planning
- WSDOT Finance (ex-officio)
- WSTC (ex-officio)
Next Steps

• FAC-T meetings (March/April)
• Conclusion of regular legislative session and establishment of fare revenue target (late April)
• File CR 101 notifying the opening of the tariff WAC sections (by May 5)
• WSDOT/WSF fare proposal to Commission (May 18-19, with June 15-16 as fallback)
• File CR 102 form with Commission fare proposal (June 18–July 7)
• Public comment period for Commission fare proposal (June/July)
• Commission holds adoption hearing on tariff proposal (August 10 or later)
• File CR 103 with final amended tariff (by August 30)
• Adopted fares go into effect (October 1)
Questions?

For more information on the 2021/2022 Ferry Fare Development Process, please contact:

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