

WSDOT Ferries Division: 2021/2022 Ferry Fare Development Process

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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

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

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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