

WSDOT Ferries Division 2023/2024 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.



Tariff Guiding Principles

- Use a simplified approach
- Charge vehicles based on space occupied
- Encourage modal shift by treating passenger and vehicle fares differently
- Differentiate fares by route based on distance and travel sheds
- Offer discounts to frequent customers
- Generate necessary fare revenue
- Employ transportation demand management strategies



Legislative Guidance on Fare Setting RCW 47.60.290

The department shall develop fare and pricing policy proposals that must:

- (a) Recognize each travel shed is unique, and might not have the same farebox recovery rate and the same pricing policies;
- (b) Use data from the current survey conducted under RCW [47.60.286](#);
- (c) Be developed with input from affected ferry users by public hearing and by review with the affected ferry advisory committees, in addition to the data gathered from the survey
- (d) Generate the amount of revenue required by the biennial transportation budget;
- (e) Consider the impacts on users, capacity, and local communities; and
- (f) Keep fare schedules as simple as possible.

While developing fare and pricing policy proposals, the department must consider the following:

- (a) Options for using pricing to level vehicle peak demand; and
- (b) Options for using pricing to increase off-peak ridership.

Current FAC-T Membership

- Chairs of Ferry Advisory Committees or their designees (approximately 11)
- Transit (Sound Transit and Kitsap Transit representatives)
- Economic development (vacant)
- Freight/commercial
- Bicycle and pedestrian
- Tourism
- Human services/special needs
- Regional transportation planning
- WSDOT Finance (ex-officio)
- WSTC (ex-officio)



Proposed Timeline of 2023/24 Tariff Cycle

Milestone	Current Date
Ferries Team/WSF Staff Meetings	January 2023
FAC-T process and scheduling meeting	January 2023
WSTC Presentation	February 2023
FAC-T Meetings	March and April 2023
Legislature's Fare Revenue Budget	April 2023
WSF Public Meeting	Early June 2023
Fare Proposal to WSTC @ Friday Harbor	June 21-22
Commission Fare Setting Process	June-September 2023
Fares Take Effect	October 2023

Questions

For more information on the 2023/2024 Ferry
Fare Development Process,
please contact:

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