



Washington State  
Transportation Commission



# 2025 Ferry Fare Adjustments

## *Online Open House Results & Subcommittee Recommendations*

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# Online Open House

Between May 27 and June 9, the WSTC hosted an Online Open House for the purpose of:

- Sharing information on the ferry fare and policy changes under consideration; and
- Offering the public an opportunity to provide comments on them.

During this time, **2,387 comments** were provided from **nearly 800 individuals**. This included:

- 650 comments regarding the possible 2.5% fare increases in 2025 and 2026
- 674 comments regarding the possible multi-ride pass expiration date extension
- 629 comments regarding the possible adjustments to the peak season surcharge
- 434 “general feedback” comments

# Key Respondent Metrics – System Usage

## Frequency of Use

**644** respondents provided this information. Of these:

- **14%** daily riders
- **43%** weekly riders
- **30%** monthly riders
- **12%** ride the ferry a few times a year or less

## Primary Trip Purpose

**645** respondents provided this information. Of these:

- **55%** personal trips
- **22%** commute to work or school
- **8%** business or other commercial purposes
- **7%** recreation
- **7%** other

## Primary Boarding Method

**647** respondents provided this information. Of these:

- **83%** drive on
- **12%** walk on
- **1%** motorcycle riders
- **1%** bike on
- **1%** transit / carpool

# Key Respondent Metrics – Demographics

## Household Income

**561** respondents provided HH income information. Of these:

- **5%** under \$30,000
- **21%** \$30,000-\$75,000
- **27%** \$75,000-\$150,000
- **9%** \$150,000-\$200,000
- **13%** over \$200,000
- **About 7%** with a HH income below about 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

## Race and Ethnicity

**462** respondents provided information on their racial or ethnic background. Of these:

- **87%** identified as white / Caucasian only
- **13%** people of color\*

## Place of Residence

**526** respondents provided valid zip code information. Of these:

- **25%** Kitsap County
- **20%** King County
- **20%** Island County
- **20%** San Juan County
- **5%** Snohomish County
- **10%** other

*\* People of color defined as those who self-identified as either American Indian or Alaskan Native/Indigenous, Asian or Asian American, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or other.*

# Online Open House – General Takeaways

Based on a review of the **2,387** comments, the following key themes emerged:

- About equal support for the **general fare increases** as there was opposition
- Significantly more support for extending the **multi ride pass expiration date** than opposition.
  - Those in opposition expressed revenue concerns and the impact the extension would have on general fares.
- Slightly more opposition for adjusting the **peak season surcharge** than there was support.
  - Those in opposition felt the peak season surcharge should not apply to local or in-state residents. Concerns were also raised regarding affordability, such as for seniors or low-income respondents who cannot afford the passes.
- Other comments included:
  - Sentiment that fares should not increase until service is fully restored
  - Requests for low-income fares & multi ride passes for seniors or people with disabilities
  - Requests for in-state discounts and/or out-of-state surcharges
  - Sentiment that fares should not increase as much as vehicle fares
  - Opposition to the credit card/transaction fee

# TransC Public Inbox

**59 emails** were also received. This included:

- 16 opposing any fare increase
- 15 supportive of extending the expiration date on the multiride pass
- 3 opposed to the credit card/transaction fee
- 1 opposed to the increase to the peak season surcharge
- 1 opposed to the increase to the capital vessel surcharge



# Fare Adjustment Recommendations & Commission Discussion

# Subcommittee Recommendation

The Ferry Subcommittee recommends advancing the following adjustments to generate the revenue assumed in the 2025-27 Transportation Budget (**\$408.8 million**):

- Increase both vehicle and passenger fares by an average of **3%** on October 1, 2025, and again on May 1, 2026.
- Increase the summer “peak” season surcharge to **35% for all routes** other than the San Juan Island routes (Anacortes to Lopez, Shaw, Orcas and Friday Harbor) which would remain unchanged at 35%.
- Pilot an extended expiration date on the multi-ride passes, from the current 90 days to **120 days**, beginning on May 1, 2026.

# Next Steps

- File CR-102 by July 2
- Public Comment Period: through August 5
- Virtual Public Hearing: Either Wednesday, August 6 or Thursday, August 7
- File CR-103P by August 31
- New fares take effect on October 1, 2025

# Questions / Contact

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