



ELIZABETH KOSA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive
and Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Public Works Director

FROM: Randy Rydel, Financial Services Manager

RE: Ordinance Amending WCC 10.34 Ferry Rates, and the WC Unified Fee
Schedule

DATE: December 14, 2022

Background:

Chapter 10.34 of the Whatcom County code addresses administration of the ferry rates and an interpretation of the rate schedule, included in the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

Whatcom County Code 10.34.030 states, "Beginning January 1, 2006, a 55 percent fare box recovery rate shall be applied and evaluated continuously from that time forward. An annual review of ferry system services, actual and projected operating costs, and actual and projected revenue from ferry user fees shall occur in order to verify the 55 percent fare box recovery rate is being achieved. It also states, "In any given year the actual fare box recovery rate is below 55 percent, the difference shall be recovered in a future ferry user fee increase unless there is adequate excess ferry user fee revenue remaining in the ferry system fund collected during prior years".

Additionally, Chapter 10.34 needs to be updated to address some housekeeping issues such as:

- removing the location of where Needs Based punch cards may be purchased in section L;

- removing the child traveling under the age of 12 without an escort waiver provision in section N;

Recommendation:

An evaluation of the farebox recovery rate has been performed and a Fare Box Fund Calculator (Exhibit "C") has captured a large fare box recovery deficient. In order to remain in compliance with Whatcom County Code 10.34.030, it is necessary to increase the ferry user fees.

Additionally, the house keeping issues need to be approved to update the Whatcom County Code to reflect these changes.

Enclosures:

- Exhibit "A" Whatcom County Code
- Exhibit "B" Unified Fee Schedule
- Exhibit "C" Fare Box Fund Calculator

Contact:

If you need any additional information please contact Randy Rydel at extension 6217.