



TIME FOR A CHANGE

The Whatcom Chief is one of the oldest car-carrying ferries plying the waters of Puget Sound. As the only public access to Lummi Island, it is time for her retirement.

Both vessel and terminals need important updates.

<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/2588/Lummi-Island-Ferry-System-Level-of-Service>

AB2020-097 on 2/25/2020
From Rhayma Blake (LIFAC)
in Public Works Committee

WHATCOM CHIEF

- 16-car vessel (often 20)
- Built 1962
- End of design life 2029
- Diesel propulsion
- Not ADA compliant

NEW FERRY

- 34-car vessel
- Enters service 2027
- Diesel Battery Hybrid
- All-electric by 2035
- Ferry \$15 million
- Terminals \$14.5 million

FUNDING

- \$30 million over 7 years
OR
- \$33 million over 15 years
- Ferry District Property Tax
- CRAB Funding
- FHWA Ferry Grant
- Fare Surcharge

BENEFITS

- Coast Guard + ADA Compliance
- Minimize Carbon Footprint
- Meets 56% Ridership Increase over 40 years

LEVEL OF SERVICE TIMELINE

- Feb 2012 Whatcom County Council est. LIFAC (ord. 2012-005;WCC 2.145)
- 2012-15 LOS information gathering and analysis
- Jan 2016 Completed LOS Report
- Nov 2016 LIFAC requests independent LOS analysis through Public Works
- Feb 2017 County Council adopts LIFAC resolution 2017-012
- Safety, ADA, legal loads, affordable fares, service
 - Terminals and parking
 - LOS Plan completion by July 2018
- Aug 2017 kpff consulting team engaged
- Nov 2017 Public Meeting hosted by PLIC and LIFAC
- Feb 2018 LOS Questionnaire (acceptable wait times and experiences)
- Mar 2018 Public Meeting: ridership and vessel size alternatives
- May 2018 Public meeting: vessel, terminal options, costs, funding
- May 2018 Public questionnaire - more than 200 responses
- Jun 2018 LIFAC approves kpff draft LOS analysis and recommendations
- July 2018 kpff alternatives analysis published - included:
- Existing Conditions
 - Ridership Demand Forecast
 - LOS Analysis
 - Vessel Characteristics
 - Terminal Options
 - Financial Forecast and Funding Options
 - Service Alternatives
- July 2018 County Council adopts LIFAC resolution 2018-026
- July 2019 Funding options reviewed -- need for countywide ferry district
- Aug 2019 Propulsion options evaluated. Diesel Battery Hybrid confirmed
- Feb 2020 LIFAC confirms intention for all-electric capability by 2035