



MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *Eak*

FROM: Randy Rydel, Financial Services Manager

RE: Ordinance Amending 2023 Unified Fee Schedule

DATE: March 27, 2023

Background:

Chapter 10.34 of the Whatcom County Code addresses the administration of ferry rates and an interpretation of the rate schedule included in the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule (UFS).

Whatcom County Public Works is currently in the process of updating WCC 10.34 to provide clarification on funding sources and clear directions for the calculations used to set fares. These anticipated changes to WCC 10.34 do not affect this current round of proposed fare changes.

The Public Works Ferry & Docks section of the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule was also updated to mirror the language in section 10.34.020 (Interpretation of rate schedule); and

Recommendation:

An evaluation of the 2023 fare box need has been performed and fare box revenue calculations (Exhibit "C") have identified a path forward, reducing the 2023 budgeted fare box deficit, to return 2023 to compliance with Whatcom County Code 10.34.030. The additional revenue needed requires a 24.5% increase in ferry user fees.

Public Works has worked with the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee to distribute this increase between fare categories with a bias toward minimizing the impact to needs based fares and multiride vehicle passes.

Enclosures:

- Exhibit "A" Unified Fee Schedule
- Exhibit "B" Fare Box Fund Calculator

Contact:

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