Fiscal Note 4/9/2024

Cost Analysis of WCFAC and WC Proposed Changes to WCC 10.34 Ferry Rates

Code Reference #	Language Summary	Whatcom County High	Whatcom County Low	WC Ferry Advisory Committee High	WC Ferry Advisory Committee Low	WC Ferry Advisory Committee one time cost	WC Ferry Advisory Committee retro pay	Annual Fare Box Revenue Gain	Annual Fare Box Revenue Loss	New Cost to County	Notes
10.34.005 A(6)	Beginning Jan 1 2024, MOER (major or emergency repairs) expenses greater than 5% of the average of the past 3 years of total ferry user fees (cost to road fund)			$ 345,000.00	$ 149,000.00					X	A significant new subsidy. "Major" as a definition is vague and will confuse.
10.34.005 A(7)	Beginning Jan 1 2024, vessel rental fees greater than 50% of the average of the past 3 years of total ferry user fees (cost to road fund)			$ 120,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 415,279.00				X	A significant new subsidy
10.34.005 B	Capital Cost should include ferry lease, therefore taking it out of operations. (cost to road fund)			$ 155,296.00	$ 155,296.00	$ 282,172.00	$ 1,456,480.00			X	A significant new subsidy, accounting definitions changed in 2022, retro payment. Change in past practice and intent.
10.34.020 F	Vans outfitted for commercial use. (unenforceable)										Could not cost out because this information is not available. Additionally, this language in unenforceable, crew do not have the authority to enter someone's private property (i.e. sprinter vans outfitted with toilets, etc.)
10.34.020 I	All Free employee passage earns credit. - Cost to Road Fund			$ 83,562.00	$ 83,562.00			$ 83,562.00		X	Ferry employee trips are an operational cost as it is part of the wage compensation package through the Collective Bargaining Agreements. PWks/sheriff employees are funded or partially funded through the road fund, essentially paying the road fund with road fund, administrative burden and associated costs to process. WCFD11 has an interagency agreement for free passage
10.34.020 P	Transportation of Human Remains After Hours (Only affects Fare Box Collection)								$ 3,000.00		address the few hours of which the vessel is not in service for community health and 1st aid services
10.34.020 M	Multi-Ride Cards Valid for 1 month instead of 3 months (proposed) 6 months (current) - Represents no cost to Road Fund.							$ 39,392.00			faster implementation timeline to yield increased farebox revenue.
	Subtotals			$ 703,858.00	$ 507,858.00	$ 697,451.00	$ 1,456,480.00	$ 122,954.00	$ 3,000.00		
10.34.005 F(6)	WC - Total Operating Expenses NCER - Non Capital Emergency Repairs (cost to road fund)	$ 82,000.00	$ 82,500.00							X	Emergency repairs is a clear definition, as emergencies are made through an official declaration of emergency through the executives office.
10.34.020 G	Removal of the student multiride card (estimated 3 per year)							$ 210.00			the administrative cost outweighs the benefit, rarely used as this is intended for post-grad students, children under 19 already ride for free.
10.34.020 P	Transportation of Human Remains After Hours (Only affects Fare Box Collection)								$ 3,000.00		address the few hours of which the vessel is not in service for community health and 1st aid services
10.34.020 M	Multi-Ride Cards Valid for 1 month instead of 3 months (proposed) 6 months (current) - Represents no cost to Road Fund.							$ 39,392.00			faster implementation timeline to yield increased farebox revenue.
10.34.020 I	Free Passage for Whatcom County Business changed to Public Works and Sheriff Business only.							$ 3,360.00			adjusted to have non-road fund employees pay the normal fare rates
10.34.030	Annual adjustments for inflation CPI-U (June '22 to June '23)							$ 41,000.00			there has been continual loss of potential revenue, as fares haven't been adjusted annually for inflation, this language solves this
	Subtotals	$ 82,000.00	$ 82,500.00					$ 83,962.00	$ 3,000.00		

Summary

Proposals	Low	High	Additional one time cost	Additional Farebox Collection
WCFAC proposal	$ 507,858.00	$ 703,858.00	$ 2,153,931.00	$ 119,954.00
Whatcom County proposal	$ 82,500.00	$ 82,000.00		$ 80,962.00