



**Washington State Ferries  
 Long Range Plan Technical Advisory Group Kick-off Meeting  
 July 27, 2017  
 Washington State Ferries | 2901 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Seattle  
 Alki Room  
 9:30am – 11:30am**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Welcome**

Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries (WSF) Senior Planning Manager, welcomed the group to the first WSF 2040 Long Range Plan Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. Ray thanked participants for their involvement, highlighting the important role of the group in developing the plan.

Carmen Bendixen, Senior Transportation Planner and meeting facilitator, reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives which included kicking-off the Technical Advisory Group, clarifying the Long Range Plan focus and scope, gathering input on key areas of interest and priorities for the plan, and reaching agreement on group roles and responsibilities.

**Overview**

Ray gave a presentation to the group on the Washington State Ferries system, Long Range Plan background, requirements for the 2040 plan, and potential additional topics that could be considered.

**Discussion**

Ray invited the group to ask questions, provide an update on their jurisdiction’s planning processes, data considerations, and key interests for the WSF 2040 Long Range Plan. Carmen facilitated a roundtable discussion, calling on each participant to ask questions and provide input. Overall, participants shared interest in ferry system reliability, ferry maintenance, communication between agencies, accessibility for all riders, and multimodal connections. The following is a summary of the questions and comments provided.

Participants provided the following updates on local planning efforts.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Status of Comprehensive Plan</b>
Kitsap Transit	Long range plan in 2015, will begin a small update in 2018
PSRC	Adopting regional Transportation 2040 plan in May 2018, updating in 2020. Will begin updating regional land use plan, Vision 2040 next year.
Island RTPO	Comprehensive plan in progress, scheduled completion late 2018
Island County	Adopted a comprehensive plan in November 2016
Community Transit	Long range plan in progress, implementing in 2018
Sound Transit	Implementing ST3 plan

City of Bremerton	Completed a comprehensive plan update in 2016
City of Mukilteo	Adopted a comprehensive plan in 2015, minor updates planned over the next few years
City of Seattle (SDOT)	Currently developing a comprehensive plan for 2025
City of Bainbridge Island	Comprehensive plan updated in February 2017
Island Transit	Comprehensive plan currently out for review

Carmen facilitated a roundtable discussion and participants provided the following input:

- Frank Nelson, Bremerton FAC, encouraged WSF to prioritize vessel maintenance and replacement to provide reliable service.
- Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit, reported Kitsap Transit recently launched passenger only ferry service and is evaluating how to best serve walk-on passengers at each facility. A key interest is coordinating schedules with WSF to provide multimodal connections. Steffani encouraged WSF to engage King County Metro in the planning process.
- Pavithra Parthasarathi, PSRC, provided an update on long range planning efforts as noted above.
- Brian Wood, Island County RTPO, requested including the Mukilteo parking study in the WSF long range plan.
- Russ Harvey, San Juan County, commented San Juan County’s expected population growth is expected to reach nearly 20,000 permanent residents by 2036 and ferry capacity is a key concern. Russ reported their new park and ride has been a success and multimodal connections are critical.
- Shawn Harris, Island Transit, noted a concern about connections; when ferries are off schedule, Island Transit’s service is also disrupted.
- Kate Tourtellot, Community Transit, indicated Community Transit’s long range plan focuses on high capacity corridors. Community Transit’s main challenge is keeping pace with development in Snohomish County.
- Matt Shelden, Sound Transit, announced Sound Transit 3 establishes Sound Transit’s investments for the next 25 years. Major projects include light rail from Ballard to Seattle and Issaquah to South Kirkland and access improvements. Sound Transit is interested in the scheduling interface between ferry and Sounder Rail service at Edmonds and Mukilteo, noting Sound Transit does not have funding for increased north Sounder service. Matt also mentioned the possibility of coordinating Sound Transit’s planned access/parking investments in Edmonds and Mukilteo with WSF investments.
- Bek Ashby, Peninsula RTPO, commented ferries are critical for transporting goods and services to the Peninsula. The reliability and connectivity of the transit system is important to providing access to lower cost of living while still taking advantage of employment and education opportunities in the Puget Sound Region. Bek noted funding and legislative support are key to implementing the Long Range Plan.
- Casey Harrington, Kitsap Transit, expressed interest in cohesive, multimodal transportation connections to supplement ferry service. Ferry maintenance is important to passenger only ferry service. Kitsap Transit plans to expand passenger only ferry service.



- Greg Lerner, King County Water Taxi, commented on the importance of multimodal transportation and a cohesive transportation network. He also noted that King County has an interest in providing future water taxi service on Lake Washington.
- Mike Nortier, Island Transit, expressed interest in multimodal connections on the east sound corridor to support economic growth and employment. Around 19,000 people commute from Island County to businesses on the east sound; reliability of travel time is important.
- Chal Martin, City of Bremerton, indicated the City's comprehensive plan includes a transportation element but not a lot of information about Washington State Ferries. Chal expressed support for improvements in the ferry system and emphasized the importance of back-up boats to maintain reliable service.
- Patricia Love, City of Mukilteo, encouraged WSF to actively coordinate with WSDOT highway divisions to address transportation issues holistically. The City of Mukilteo has concerns about local traffic that will not be addressed by the new Mukilteo ferry terminal. Patricia noted communications between WSF and other WSDOT divisions has been challenging. Residents are interested in more parking but none of the agencies have funding to pay for it.
- Benjamin Smith, Seattle Department of Transportation, noted that Colman Dock construction and Alaskan Way reconstruction is underway. The City's comprehensive plan shows projected population growth outside of downtown Seattle. A priority is making sure people can take transit and ferries on both sides of the water. Benjamin also expressed interest in the future of the Fautleroy/Vashon/Southworth routes, in light of future fast ferry service from Kitsap Transit.
- Meg Heppner, Island Transit, commented regional connections are important to their service.
- Justin Leighton, Washington State Transit Association, shared interest in frequent ferry service, expanded weekend operation, and passenger only ferry service. Justin encouraged WSF to engage legislators early to ensure plan elements are incorporated in funding plans.
- Ken Clow, City of Port Townsend, commented that multimodal transportation connections are critical. The ferry reservations system and two new boats in Port Townsend have improved reliability. Ken is interested in continuing to improve access to ferries.
- David Forte, Kitsap County, shared coordination with fast ferries is a key concern. The WSF Long Range Plan should consider different needs at each terminal. For example, Bremerton and Bainbridge Island have high levels of commuters, while others are more freight oriented. Kitsap County is also concerned about the lack of backup boats in Kingston. David encouraged WSF to invite WSDOT regional staff to join the TAG and participate in planning process. David is also interested in addressing the "super peaks" of traffic, as well as looking at the interim picture of the Colman Dock project.
- Chris Hammer, City of Bainbridge Island, announced that there is a multi-jurisdictional planning effort for the SR305 corridor under way lead by Kitsap Transit and also involving Kitsap County, Suquamish, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge. The City of Bainbridge is currently studying the alignment of the STO Trail along the SR305 corridor and conducting a downtown parking study.
- Greg Beardsley, Ferry Advisory Committee, indicated vessel reliability is a problem. WSF does not have enough boats to maintain service. Maintaining and building new vessels should be a key priority in the plan.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Hadley Rodero, WSF Strategic Communications Manager, provided an overview of the community and stakeholder engagement program and timeline, highlighting the multiple opportunities for engagement and diverse range of audiences. Hadley encouraged the group to provide feedback on concurrent public processes happening in ferry-served communities and opportunities for collaboration.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Carmen reviewed roles and responsibilities for the TAG and the WSF project team. The role of the TAG is to ensure WSF uses the most current local data; represent communities' interests and concerns; review and provide feedback on draft plan elements; collaboratively engage with TAG members; and assist in building support for the plan. The WSF project team will provide information; attend TAG meetings to answer questions and inform discussion; consider and address TAG input when developing the plan; and report back on how the project team considered and addressed input in decision-making. Laura asked the group to review the roles and responsibilities document and provide comment. The document will be finalized at the next TAG meeting.

## Additional Questions and Comments

Participants provided the following additional question and comments.

- Participants encouraged WSF to change the name of the Policy Advisory Group as it represents user groups, not policy advisors. Communication between the PAG and TAG is critical and WSF should consider joint meetings.
- How often do you plan to meet with transit agencies?
- The TAG requested a set meeting schedule and WSF agreed.
- A participant suggested forming small groups to discuss key topics.
- A participant identified equity as a critical component for the plan. Human services should be represented in the planning process.

## Next Steps

Ray reviewed next steps including developing the scope of the plan and hiring a consultant team to develop the plan. The next TAG meeting will be scheduled in late September. WSF promised to provide a regular meeting schedule for all upcoming meetings. Carmen thanked the group for their time and contributions to the discussion.

## Attendance:

### Meeting Attendees:

- Bek Ashby, Peninsula RTPO
- Greg Beardsley, Vashon FAC
- Ken Clow, City of Port Townsend
- David Forte, Kitsap County
- Chris Hammer, City of Bainbridge Island
- Casey Harrington, Kitsap Transit Passenger Only Ferry
- Shawn Harris, Island Transit
- Russ Harvey, San Juan County
- Meg Heppner, Island Transit
- Justin Leighton, Washington State Transit Association
- Greg Lerner, King County Water Taxi



- Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit
- Patricia Love, City of Mukilteo
- Chal Martin, City of Bremerton
- Frank Nelson, Bremerton FAC
- Mike Nortier, Island Transit
- Pavithra Parthasarathi, PSRC
- Matt Shelden, Sound Transit
- Benjamin Smith, SDOT
- Kate Tourtellot, Community Transit
- Brian Wood, Island County & Island RTPO

**Project Team:**

- Carmen Bendixen, Washington State Ferries
- Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries
- Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries
- Laura LaBissoniere Miller, PRR
- Sam DeMars-Hanson, PRR

**Scoping Consultants:**

- Paul Arnold, WSP
- Daniel Turner, WSP