

## AICAB News

### General Update:

Following discussion at the April meeting a letter was sent from the AICAB to Pierce County requesting county negotiations with Steilacoom Historic School District #1 for acquisition of all or part of Pioneer Middle School grounds (which will become surplus next spring). The AICAB asked that this property be utilized as an additional parking lot for AI ferry commuters/ passengers. The AICAB was informed that county funds are currently unavailable for this request.

Resulting from previous presentations at AICAB meetings by PC Water Programs staff, the AICAB requested that Anderson Island be removed from the Key Peninsula Island Basin Surface Water Management Area. In view of the limited surface water on AI we ask that AI property owners not be taxed at the combined rate needed for the proposed mainland management projects. The AICAB reviewed the list of planned projects (providing little benefit to AI), and advised the county that we do not wish to offer AI tax dollars for water improvement projects in areas outside of Anderson Island, such as Gig Harbor.

At the May AICAB meeting the Anderson Island Crime Task Force requested support from the AICAB in their efforts to promote safe driving conditions on Anderson Island. Crime Task Force concerns relate to speed limits and signage in the “curves” on Eckenstam-Johnson Road leading to the ferry landing, the intersection of Eckenstam-Johnson Rd and Brandt Rd, the Interlaken Park area on Matthews Way, and Camus Rd in front of the AI Elementary School. As decided by AICAB vote at the June meeting, the AICAB submitted a letter of endorsement, requesting review of island speed limits and signage by the PC Public Works Department.

### AICAB Ferry Committee Update:

The AICAB Ferry Committee (Chuck Hinds, Elmer Brown, Ed Stephenson, Keith Vollrath and Terri Bruggeman) functions as a communication conduit and advocate for Anderson Island issues with the County on all matters related to ferry operations. On May 15, 2006 committee members met with officials from the Public Works Department regarding the following issues. Complete meeting minutes are provided on the AICAB website ([www.aicab.org](http://www.aicab.org)).

**New Ferry Construction** – Although some parts of the construction of the Steilacoom II have slipped, the overall delivery date is still on schedule for the middle of October. The shipyard is working overtime to get back on schedule. The two end modules were shipped to Nichols Brothers Boatbuilding on Whidbey Island where they will be connected to the center section. The generators and engines have been installed as well as most of the hull piping systems. The center hull and the

rest of the vessel (passenger deck, and pilot house) are being fabricated and outfitted at Whidbey Island.

**New Anderson Island Ramp Pontoon – The contract for the ramp pontoon replacement has been signed and the construction will be done over the summer.**

While work will progress during the next several months, no interruption to ferry service is expected to occur except as follows:

The Anderson Island ferry landing is tentatively scheduled to close to all traffic during the following time period:

Beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday October 6, 2006 until 8:30 a.m. on Monday October 9, 2006. There will be no ferry service during this period. Updates will be provided as we receive definite confirmation from the County. Please note that further information will be distributed in paper form, on the County ferry website, and via e-mail distribution as the final closure period approaches.

**Summer Peak Period - No changes in traffic control for the stacking lanes are planned over that which was provided during the peak period last year. As before, a traffic director will be available during the weekends, after Memorial Day, and during anticipated heavy traffic use times. Plan on being in line early to catch some of the more heavily used ferry runs.**

**Commuter Ticket Books – A reminder.... regular commuter tickets are void if removed from the stapled booklet. Misuse of commuter tickets has become more prevalent and riders have been advised to “not tear the tickets from the book” lest they be rejected by the ferry personnel. This does not apply to senior or disabled tickets.**

**Ferry Ticket Sales – A request for proposals has been advertised for the new ticketing system. The proposals are due on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the first stage, to choose a vendor, after which the final system configurations and costs will be determined. At this time, the new system will allow for full sales at the Steilacoom waiting facility and credit/debit card sales at the Anderson Island Store and finally, internet ticket sales. Updated information will be forthcoming in the next several months.**

**Some of the long term items that the ferry committee and the County are working on:**

- **Ferry Schedule vs Pierce Transit Schedule**
  - **Future Parking Area at the Steilacoom Dock**
  - **Future Growth and Ferry Schedules**
  - **Ferry Parking Lanes on Anderson Island**
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