

# ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

## Ferry Committee Report

August 22, 2006

Meeting with Pierce County Public Works Department  
2702 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> st  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
2<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference room

### Attendees:

Pierce County Public Works  
-Don Peterson, P.E.,  
Pacific Navigation  
-Steve Caputa  
-John Sainsbury  
Anderson Island  
-Ed Stephenson  
Ketron Island  
-Ed Litz

Don Peterson reported status on some of the ongoing issues, requests and events:

### New Ferry Construction

Hull sections have been welded together and major portions of the plumbing, electrical and engine compartment have been completed; however, delays have resulted in obtaining the specialized material for the propeller shaft by the Danish contractor has resulted in a postponement in the delivery schedule until the end of November or early December 2006.

Photos of the construction and vessel layout plans can be found on the web at [www.nicholsboats.com](http://www.nicholsboats.com). The new ferry will look much the same as the current Christine Anderson with a few changes and added features. Seating will be similar to the current arrangement with additional benches along the port and starboard sides of the interior. It will accommodate 300 passengers on a normal run (car occupants plus walk-ons) and can carry approximately twice that number in a "rescue" mode. The elevator is located at the center of the boat and the car deck has an extra 2 ft. wide lane for wheelchairs/ walkers/ strollers along one side. In addition to personal life preservers, there will be two 150 person life rafts plus a rescue boat available for emergencies.

### Ketron Special Run (Be prepared)

For a special event, Ketron has asked that an additional run be made to accommodate a large increase in Ketron riders. The event is planned for Friday, August 25 on the 3:10pm ferry, when as many as 50 Ketron riders (unknown how many cars) are expected. That will be a good crossing to avoid. It will be crowded and may cause the 3:10pm and 4:10pm ferry runs to arrive at A.I. approximately 10-15 minutes late.

### New Anderson Island Ramp Pontoon

The replacement of the pontoon on the A.I. dock is still scheduled for Oct 7 and 8. The concrete is being poured and when completed, it will be barged to the island where the barge will

be “sunk” and the pontoon floated into position. There will be **NO** ferry service during this period. Please plan accordingly. During the installation, remote controls for the ramp lift will be installed allowing the crew to safely raise the ramp without leaving the ferry.

### **Second Loading Ramp at Steilacoom**

The second loading ramp is still in the long range plan but has not been budgeted so it is not likely to happen in the near future.

### **Ferry Ticket Sales**

The county reiterated that in the near future all tickets will be barcoded and scanned when boarding the ferry. The crew will not actually take tickets any longer. A “tentative” contractor has been picked with a startup goal of January 1, 2007. (Programming problems may delay the startup.) The tickets will be purchased on the Steilacoom dock, the Island General Store or on-line using a credit card. On-line tickets can be printed out on any black and white paper or card stock desired and it will be the responsibility of the purchaser to maintain the ticket in a legible format. Each ticket can only be used for one passage on one ferry run, i.e., a commuter ticket can’t be used twice on the same ferry run. More details will follow as we approach the startup date.

### **Fare Increase**

The increased cost of fuel has forced the county to propose a fuel surcharge to be added to all fares. The current estimate is a 9 to 10% increase across the board effective January 1, 2007, for the following year but this amount is subject to change (increase) if future costs require it. The proposed increases (see attached) will be presented to the AICAB for their comment at the next meeting. In addition to the surcharge, some clarification of the “exempt” status will be made to close what the county considers to be some loopholes in the current system. (Most ferry riders are not affected by this status change.)

### **County Ferry Administrator**

Ms. Louise Bray has been working with the county in a special assignment to establish the new position of Ferry Administrator, who will coordinate most of the ferry functions now being handled part time by Don Peterson. The position was posted by the county in the August 20, 2006 TNT and is expected to be filled in the near future. The administrator is expected to be responsible for all ferry coordination, planning, budget proposals, AICAB interface, etc. The exact duties and timing will be determined later.

### **Ferry Painting**

The ferry crew instead of a separate contractor, has taken on the job of painting the ferry. This is saving money and keeping the boat better maintained.

## **CHANGES AND REQUESTS**

### **Passenger Boarding Change**

Due to new MARSEC requirements and passenger safety, walk-on passengers will not be allowed to board the ferry until **all** cars and passengers have disembarked and the boat has been swept (cleared of all arriving passengers) by the ferry personnel. Once the crew has satisfied this requirement, departing passengers will be allowed to board. They do not expect that this added

operation will result in any additional delays and have asked that all passengers cooperate with this requirement by being ready to depart as soon as the ferry reaches the dock.

#### Passenger Disembarking Change

For safety reasons, upon docking, departing passengers will be required to stand only in the yellow marked areas and not in the car lanes. Elevator users should either make their way to the front of the boat before docking or after the inside car lanes have cleared and not walk on the car deck while cars are unloading.

#### Accidental Damage to Others

The county reiterated that drivers are responsible for any damage they cause to other cars or passengers.

#### Damage from Vandalism

Both the Steilacoom and A.I. docks are experiencing vandalism again. On the A.I. side, wads of wet toilet paper have been thrown onto the ceiling and have clogged fans.

On the Steilacoom side, graffiti has again been defacing the restrooms. Available video tapes have been turned over to the authorities for inspection with hope that the suspects can be identified. Vandalism of this type increases the labor and costs of operating the ferry system which eventually shows up in increased fares. Don Peterson asks that AICAB acknowledge this problem and help them to work toward a solution.

#### Steilacoom Boarding Lanes

The county is trying to come up with a better way to prevent cars from speeding the wrong way up the ferry lanes. Efforts to date have not been totally effective and this is a serious safety issue. They are also trying to close off the unused paved drive just above the parking lot which will allow more effective use of the boarding lanes at the front of the line especially for longer vehicles. They are considering concrete barriers which could be temporarily removed if necessary. This is apparently not a driveway but a county easement.

#### Request for Notification of Special Events

Ferry personnel have requested that islanders give them prior notice of special events occurring on the island so they can try to compensate for the heavier than usual loading. Steven Caputo of Pacific Navigation requests to be informed of events such as the AIHS salmon bake, apple squeeze, community fair, large wedding receptions, family reunions, etc. which may result in extraordinary car or passenger loads. He can be reached at 206-780-1440 or leave a message for him at 253-588-1950.

Next Scheduled Meeting is November 28, 2006.

*E. Stephenson*

*Chapter 10.38*

**FERRY FARES**

**Section:**

**10.38.010 Passenger and Vehicle Fares.**

**10.38.010 Passenger and Vehicle Fares (1)(9).**

		<b>Fuel Surcharge (10)</b>
A. Passenger (in vehicle or walk on):		
1. Adult (age 19 and older).....	\$ 4.40	<b>\$0.40</b>
2. Senior or Disabled Citizen (2).....	\$ 2.20	<b>\$0.20</b>
3. Commuter Passenger (5 roundtrips) (3).....	\$17.50	<b>\$1.50</b>
4. Children under age 5 .....	Free	<b>Free</b>
5. Youth (ages 5 through 18).....	\$ 3.20	<b>\$0.30</b>

	<u>Non-Peak (4)</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>Peak (5)</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>Fuel (10)</u> <u>Surcharge</u>	<u>Fuel (10)</u> <u>Surcharge</u>
B. Vehicle (Includes Driver) (6)				
Up to and including 20 foot length.....	\$ 15.00	\$ 18.00	<b>\$ 1.35</b>	<b>\$ 1.60</b>
Up to and including 20 foot length – Commuter (5 round trips) (3) .....	\$ 62.50	\$ 62.50	<b>\$ 5.75</b>	<b>\$ 5.75</b>
Up to and including 20 foot length – Senior or Disabled Citizen (2).....	\$ 12.30	\$ 14.75	<b>\$ 1.10</b>	<b>\$ 1.35</b>
Over 20 feet to under 30 feet.....	\$ 28.75	\$ 34.50	<b>\$ 2.60</b>	<b>\$ 3.10</b>
30 feet to under 40 feet.....	\$ 45.00	\$ 54.00	<b>\$ 4.05</b>	<b>\$ 4.90</b>
40 feet to under 50 feet.....	\$ 60.00	\$ 72.00	<b>\$ 5.40</b>	<b>\$ 6.50</b>
50 feet to under 60 feet.....	\$ 75.00	\$ 90.00	<b>\$ 6.75</b>	<b>\$ 8.10</b>
60 feet to under 70 feet.....	\$ 90.00	\$108.00	<b>\$ 8.10</b>	<b>\$ 9.70</b>
70 feet to under 80 feet.....	\$ 110.00	\$132.00	<b>\$ 9.90</b>	<b>\$ 11.90</b>
80 feet and greater .....	\$ 130.00	\$156.00	<b>\$ 11.70</b>	<b>\$ 14.05</b>
Motorcycle/Stowage(Includes Driver)(7) .....	\$ 8.00	\$ 9.60	<b>\$ 0.75</b>	<b>\$ 0.85</b>
Motorcycle Commuter(5 round trips)(3).....	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.00	<b>\$ 3.00</b>	<b>\$ 3.00</b>
Bicycle (No cost. Included with passenger fare. One bicycle per passenger.) Exempt vehicles (No cost.)(8)				

C. Footnotes to Tables. This subsection pertains to the parenthetical numbers in subsections A. and B. above.

(1) All fares are round-trip and collected outbound at Steilacoom, and become effective January 1, 2006. Unused tickets issued prior to January 1, 2006, are valid through

February 15, 2006. Existing commuter tickets are valid until expiration date indicated on each ticket. Refunds for unused tickets shall be per the written policy of the Public Works and Utilities Department.

- (2) Senior citizens, age 65 or older, must show proof of age with valid photo identification or present a Regional Reduced Fare permit. Disabled passengers must present valid disability identification at the time of boarding. Valid disability requires one of the following:
  - a. A Regional Reduced Fare permit.
  - b. A certification by the Veterans Administration that the person is at a 40 percent or greater disability level.
  - c. A regional ADA Paratransit card, or
  - d. A Medicare card.
- (3) Commuter tickets are valid for 40 days from the date of purchase, and after 40 days the tickets are invalid. Commuter tickets may be used by only one person per vehicle per trip. Tickets may not be used for other vehicles or persons waiting to utilize the ferry.
- (4) Non-Peak season rates are in effect from September 16 through May 14 of each year.
- (5) Peak season rates are in effect from May 15 through September 15 of each year.
- (6) Vehicle length is measured from furthest protruding item at the front of the vehicle to the furthest protruding item at the rear of the vehicle. Logging trucks, whether loaded or unloaded, will be charged under the 50 feet to under 60 feet category.
- (7) Large carry-on items including kayaks, canoes, and other items of comparable size, which are typically stowed on the vehicle deck of the vessel, shall be charged at the motorcycle rate. This rate includes the fare for the walk-on passenger carrying the item to be stowed.
- (8) All governmental and/or public institutional vehicles with a tax-exempt license plate, and the occupants, will be provided free passage when conducting official governmental or public institutional business on the islands.
- (9) Any vehicle with a total width exceeding 11 feet, measured from furthest protruding item at each side of the vehicle, shall be charged twice the normal rate.
- (10) The fuel surcharge is in addition to the regular fares and will be in effect from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.