



**Washington State Ferries Long Range Plan
Combined Technical Advisory Group and Policy Advisory Group Meeting #6
July 19, 2018
Century Square | 1501 Fourth Avenue, Seattle
Alki Conference Room
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome

Stephanie Cirkovich, Washington State Ferries Community Services and Planning Director, facilitated introductions and welcomed the group to the sixth WSF 2040 Long Range Plan combined Technical Advisory Group and Policy Advisory Group (TAG and PAG) meeting. She explained that over the past few weeks, WSF's consultant team had developed key findings and draft recommendations for the Long Range Plan. Attendees introduced themselves and described what they were most interested in hearing about during the meeting. Common items of interest included the vessel replacement plan, how the system will expand to accommodate projected growth, the plan outline, how plan elements will link together to create a coherent policy, and terminal improvements.

Hadley Rodero, WSF Strategic Communications Manager and meeting facilitator, reviewed the agenda and objectives, which included providing an update on plan development and progress report to the Legislature, reviewing and discussing draft plan elements, and introducing the fall community engagement plan. Hadley reviewed the timeline, which included a cancellation of the September PAG/TAG meeting because of the second round of public open houses in the fall.

Progress report to Legislature

Amy Scarton, WSF Assistant Secretary, thanked TAG and PAG members for attending and provided an update on the latest progress report to the Legislature. She said the team is currently halfway through the planning year and two-thirds of the way through the planning process. The report updates the Legislature on progress with the Long Range Plan, including preliminary findings and potential strategies. A near-term strategy includes stabilizing the fleet by building five new vessels. Other strategies include implementing technology and adaptive management strategies to ease congestion, investing in workforce development to ensure system reliability for future generations, and establishing a training and mentorship program.

PAG and TAG members asked the following questions about the progress report:

- Phil Williams, City of Edmonds, asked if the procurement process for the five new vessels will stay the same or if the process will be any different.
- Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County, asked if there are topics that will appeal to the current Legislature, including addressing how WSF will manage building five vessels at one time and hopes the Legislature is not losing the opportunity to spread funding to other parts of the ferry industry.
- Bryce Yadon, Futurewise, asked what the PAG and TAG's role is as advisors in motivating legislators to understand that this plan is a priority.
- Richard Warren, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Division, asked how WSF is addressing the mass retirement they are facing, noting that WSF needs to focus not only on the replacement of vessels but also the crew.

Review Draft Long Range Plan elements

Ray Deardorf, WSF Senior Planning Manager, reviewed the four key themes in the Draft Long Range Plan, including reliable service, growth management, customer experience, and sustainability and resiliency. He presented a map showing all of the service and terminal improvements planned by 2040 and reviewed the draft plan implementation timeline.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about the timeline and service and terminal enhancements:

- Walt Elliott, Kingston Ferry Advisory Committee, said Kingston and Bainbridge Island are seen as having symmetrical routes. He suggested that there should be two jumbo ferries and one 144-car ferry for each of those routes.
- Greg Beardsley, Vashon FAC, commented that to show the Legislature that WSF needs more vessels, WSF needs to split up service and maintenance relief vessels so legislators understand that WSF has no spare vessels in operation.
- Paul Parker, Washington State Transportation Commission, said he liked the level of detail and thought in the draft plan implementation timeline. He asked if it accounts for existing passenger-only ferry service.
 - Ray replied that the plan does account for passenger-only ferry service.
- Benjamin Smith, Seattle Department of Transportation, suggested splitting up the two types of vessels into planned and unplanned relief.

Reliable Service

Ray reviewed the draft plan's recommendations related to reliable service, which include stabilizing the fleet by building new vessels, maintaining and improving terminal efficiency, and developing the workforce.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about reliable service:

- Walt suggested including maintenance funding in the long range planning, similar to what WSF did in the 2007 plan, because it affects reliability.
- Paul asked if the list of terminal improvements beyond Edmonds and Mukilteo include improvements to deal with seismic resiliency.

Manage Growth

Ray reviewed the draft plan's recommendations related to managing growth, which include investing in technology and adjusting schedules to spread demand and encourage walk-on riders.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about managing growth:

- Greg said promoting walking and biking for efficiency would promote the door-to-door transportation concept.
- Benjamin suggested partnering with jurisdictions and WSDOT regions to help promote biking and walking.
- Greg commented that WSF is overloading boats regularly in the afternoon and suggested increasing the service hours midday and running them later to add the capacity.
- Tom Thiersch, Port Townsend FAC, commented WSF needs to find ways to measure demand for routes with reservations.
- Greg said within the Triangle route, the Southworth and Vashon ferry terminals are not served well by buses and transit. Until public transportations serve those areas, WSF will not get rid of the vehicle surge that comes with commuters.

Customer Experience

Kirsten Kissinger, KPFF Project Manager for the Draft Long Range Plan, joined Ray in providing an overview of the customer experience theme, which includes using technology to enhance the customer experience.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about customer experience:

- David Forte, Kitsap County and Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization, expressed his appreciation that the team looked at *Good To Go!* technologies. He encouraged using that approach as a traffic management system at the Kingston terminal queue.
- Benjamin said WSF should be making sure technology is blending together. For example, trip planning, reservations and ticketing should have the ability to merge together. If WSF is looking at Destination ORCA, they prepare for the ability to combine trip planning to manage growth.

Sustainability and Resilience

Kristen reviewed the draft plan's recommendations for emergencies and climate change to sustain reliable service through 2040, which include greening the fleet and reducing our environmental footprint.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about sustainability and resiliency:

- Phil suggested considering a way to organize volunteers in case of an emergency.
- Frank Nelson, Bremerton FAC, asked if WSF has identified a commercially available battery system to move ferries from one terminal to another without using diesel.

Budget and investment needs

Carla Sawyer, Finance Consultant with Progressions, reviewed the current budget, potential cost efficiencies, and capital and operating investment needs.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about budget and investment needs:

- Richard asked if there will be a comparison of what WSF is planning to spend and how much they are spending now.
- David suggested showing the cost comparison charts in terms of percentages since people may respond better to it. He also suggested presenting the information in three different tiers – what you're getting, the unfunded amount, and what the new plan is.
- Walt asked if the plan will show the costs of the various options or alternatives. When the PAG/TAG members first met, they had three options (including modified and modified plus). Walt also asked if they were planning for a 60-year lifespan for vessels.
- Benjamin said it would be interesting to break up the budget into individual years and show the cause of cost increases.
- Richard said it may be challenging to explain this data thoroughly to the public and the Legislature when the report is distributed and suggested using visuals.

Preview fall community engagement plan

Hadley introduced the draft public meeting schedule and format for the second round of community outreach. WSF will hold 11 system-wide open houses along with an online open house and expanded onboard outreach.

PAG and TAG members provided the following questions and comments about the second round of public outreach:



- Richard asked if the online open house was statewide and how the public will know that the plan is out for public review if they don't live in the Puget Sound area.
 - Hadley replied that the online open house will be statewide and that it will be promoted on the WSF website, social media account, and through email blasts, along with other modes of communication.
- Walt commented the public was disappointed that there was no formal presentation at the beginning of the public meetings.
- Benjamin asked if PAG and TAG members are able to share input now or if they should wait until the comment period.
 - Hadley responded by saying PAG and TAG members are able to submit comments anytime, but she recommends waiting until the plan is released and the comment period officially opens.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Ray and Hadley reviewed next steps and timeline. The next PAG and TAG meeting is scheduled for November. During the November meeting, the project team will share the feedback from the second round of public open houses and discuss how the input will be reflected in the final plan. The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Attendance:

Meeting Attendees:

- Greg Beardsley, Vashon Ferry Advisory Committee
- Gil Cerise, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County
- Ed Coviello, Kitsap Transit
- Walt Elliott, Kingston Ferry Advisory Committee
- David Forte, Kitsap County and Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization
- Russ Harvey, San Juan County
- Dave Hoogerwerf, Clinton Ferry Advisory Committee
- Jill Lazo, U.S. Coast Guard
- Karen Mesko, Sound Transit
- Frank Nelson, Bremerton Ferry Advisory Committee
- Paul Parker, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Ashley Probart, Transportation Improvement Board
- John Shambaugh, Washington State Department of Transportation Northwest Region
- Benjamin Smith, City of Seattle (Seattle Department of Transportation)
- Tom Thiersch, Port Townsend Ferry Advisory Committee
- Richard Warren, Multimodal Planning Division, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Phil Williams, City of Edmonds
- Bryce Yadon, Futurewise

Participating by phone:

- Steve Dickson, Snohomish County Public Works
- Kate Tourtellot, Community Transit

Project Team:

- Carmen Bendixen, Washington State Ferries
- Stephanie Cirkovich, Washington State Ferries
- Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries



- Colin McCann, Washington State Ferries
- Charles Prestrud, Washington State Ferries
- Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries
- Amy Scarton, Washington State Ferries
- John Vezina, Washington State Ferries
- Carla Sawyer, Progressions
- Mike Anderson, KPFF
- Kristen Kissinger, KPFF
- Jill MacKay, IBI Group
- Matt Williamson, Elliott Bay Design Group
- Eileen Tausch, Elliott Bay Design Group
- Laura LaBissoniere Miller, PRR
- Gracie Geremia, PRR
- Samantha DeMars-Hanson, PRR