



Ferry Notice

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Guemes Ferry Weekend Update

City of Anacortes Shoreline Permit

You may have seen a few yellow land-use notice signs around the ferry terminal recently. These signs are to publicize the public comment period for Skagit County's application for a shoreline permit from the City of Anacortes. The permit was applied for in January of 2024 and the City of Anacortes is still in the process of review for a final decision. The permit includes the following proposed project items:

- Upgrades to the apron, wingwalls, and outermost dolphins to accommodate the all-electric ferry vessel and allow for quicker loading and unloading of passengers and vehicles.
- Addition of shoreside electrical charging stations and batteries for the all-electric ferry.
- Upland site improvements to the Anacortes parking lot and queuing areas.

If you are looking for more information on the permit application and project details, the City of Anacortes hosted a virtual neighborhood meeting on November 14, 2023, to allow Skagit County Public Works staff to present our proposed improvements. The meeting was recorded and is available on our [website](#), along with the [slide deck](#).

Please note, while the permit application includes several proposed improvements and additions to the Anacortes terminal and dock, the approval of the shoreline permit does not guarantee Skagit County will move forward with every item included in the application. We prepared the permit application before we opened the bids for construction of the all-electric ferry vessel and unfortunately, we had to [reject all bids](#) due to the costs that exceeded our available grant funding.

Because shoreline permits take a significant amount of time to complete and receive approval, we submitted the application early in the project process to ensure that we would have time to construct the terminal modifications while the new vessel was being constructed. We cannot make changes to the permit application at this time without restarting the application process from the beginning, potentially leading to additional delays for our vessel replacement project.

The County announced earlier this year that we would be conducting a value engineering study on the vessel design to evaluate whether we can save costs on the current design to align our available budget. We are working on a timeline for the completion of this study and will be sending out more information in the near future.

Anacortes Terminal Phone Line

The phone lines in the Anacortes terminal continue to be down. We are working with our staff to fix the phone lines, but in the meantime please call the Public Works number at 360-416-1400. As soon as the phone lines are restored, we will send out an update.

New Staff in training at the Ferry

Our two new staff members will be in training at the ferry over the next few weeks! You might see more ferry employees around the terminal, but that's because they're learning and shadowing current staff. If you see someone new, give them a warm welcome to our ferry crew!

Please note, there will be no double 11:15 a.m. runs during this time to ensure we have time for training and U.S. Coast Guard required drills for all staff.

Weekend Traffic

As we continue through the summer season, please remember to plan for longer wait times at the ferry, especially over the weekends. There are summer events occurring most weekends both on the Island and Anacortes, leading to more passengers hoping to ride the ferry! To help save time, remember to buy your ferry tickets ahead of time through either the mobile app or on our [website](#). This ensures you do not have to first park and then use the ferry office to purchase your ticket after arrival. We no longer sell tickets car-side.
