



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2025

Jenn Rogers, Communications Manager, Skagit County  
jrogers@co.skagit.wa.us · 360-416-1309

---

### Guemes Island Ferry Maintenance and Repairs Update

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the Guemes Island passenger-only ferry service was suspended for several hours as a result of an electrical issue with the bridge on the island. The electrical and hydraulic systems for both bridges are due for complete replacement and upgrade. Persistent troubleshooting has been ongoing, primarily due to recurrent hydraulic motor faults requiring frequent restarts. The starter for the hydraulic motor has now been replaced, which is expected to mitigate these issues. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the bridge experienced an unexpected power outage caused by the failure of two coils within the main electrical panel. These coils have been replaced, restoring functionality. Contractors remain actively engaged in diagnostics, and additional work is planned on the hydraulic motor and pump once the required replacement parts arrive.

We understand the maintenance issues are inconvenient when they lead to disruptions in our ferry service. We always aim to provide the best possible reliable service to Guemes Island; however, the vessel and docks are aging and will continue to have deferred maintenance issues until we find a long-term solution. Our plan for these issues has been to upgrade our shoreside infrastructure while we are replacing the vessel with a new ferry. As you know, we are in the process of doing a value engineering evaluation of the new ferry and shoreside infrastructure upgrade design to ensure the costs are within our available budget. Skagit County is also pursuing a grant for major upgrades and repairs to both bridges including new aprons, new electrical and hydraulic systems, as well as structural repairs to components of the wing walls, pilings, and transfer spans.

We understand the community still has questions regarding the missing propeller and subsequent repairs from last January. We are still in the investigation and evaluation stage of this issue with our insurance company. Once we have a final report to share, we will send out a notice to the ferry listserv.

We appreciate the community's patience as we work through maintenance and repairs, and we will continue to provide updates as we have them. If you have any questions, please reach out to the ferry office at 360-293-6433 or [ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us)

---

---