

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 20230152 AND ESTABLISHING THE 2025 FERRY
FARE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Skagit County (“County”) owns and operates a vehicle and passenger ferry (herein “ferry”) between Anacortes, Washington, and Guemes Island, Washington; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2023, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners (“Board”) adopted Resolution R20230152, establishing the 2023/2024 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule; and

WHEREAS, the **Exhibit A** of Resolution R20230152 establishes the ferry fare revenue target methodology, and it is the desire of the Board to implement fare increases to reach a 65% fare box revenue target phased over a 5-year period from August 15, 2023, through December 31, 2028; and

WHEREAS, the ferry fare target methodology further states that the Public Works Department shall prepare an annual report pursuant to the revenue target formula found in **Exhibit A** of Resolution R20230152, and will recommend a ferry rate schedule for the upcoming calendar year with an estimate of revenues based on those rates; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution R20230152, and the requirements contained therein, Public Works Department staff prepared the 2024 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report which includes the 2025 ferry fare proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend **Exhibit B** of R20230152 to include the 2025 fare revenue target, and an estimate of revenues based on the 2025 fare schedule (and a copy of revised **Exhibit B** is attached and incorporated herein); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend **Exhibit C** of R20230152 to adopt the 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule, as described per attached revised **Exhibit C** (and incorporated herein), to establish the ferry fare schedule for 2025, effective January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R2024 [REDACTED], a public hearing was held on [REDACTED], 2024, to solicit input on the 2024 Draft Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report and the 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare proposal; and

WHEREAS, the amended 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule, attached as revised **Exhibit C** (and incorporated by reference), establishes the ferry fare schedule for January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, considering recommended input from the Public Works Department staff and the oral and written comments received; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to adopt the 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule, effective January 1, 2025, and adopt the following changes from the 2023/2024 fare schedule (as more particularly described per the attached revised **Exhibit C** and incorporated herein):

- Implement a 30% fare increase.
- Implement peak pricing on multi-ride passes, with the standard 15% discount remaining.

- All tickets, including multi-ride passes, expire December 31, 2025, and each year on December 31, pending Board decision for years after 2025.
- Non-peak tickets and multi-ride passes may not be used during peak season (May 20 through September 30).
- Establish a no-refund policy: once a ticket or multi-ride pass is purchased the full liability and responsibility shall remain with the purchaser.
- Establish rate for after-hours private or private commercial trips of \$1,500, plus fare, with \$500 per additional successive trip regardless of the purpose of travel.
- Establish rate for private/extra trips during the hours of operation, including, but not limited to the weekly Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) of \$750, plus fare.
- Establish rate for intergovernmental emergency services dispatched by 911, of actual cost, plus fare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that **Exhibit C** of Resolution R20230152 is amended and revised as per the attached **Exhibit C** (incorporated herein) and is adopted as the 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule, effective January 1, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that **Exhibit B** of Resolution R20230152 is amended and revised as per the attached **Exhibit B** (incorporated herein) and is adopted as the 2025 fare revenue target, and an estimate of revenues based on the 2025 fare schedule, effective January 1, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that the 2025 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule shall be in effect through December 31, 2025, before which time the Public Works Department shall prepare and submit a report for the upcoming calendar year with a recommended rate schedule for 2026, in accordance with **Exhibit A** (copy attached and incorporated herein) of R20230152.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Peter Browning, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Approved as to Content:

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Department Head

DRAFT

EXHIBIT A

GUEMES ISLAND FERRY FARE REVENUE METHODOLOGY

Overview:

The Guemes Island Ferry 2023 Rate Study was conducted to evaluate the Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule and fare policies, and to provide a rate schedule for 2023/2024, as well as policy for setting future fare increases.

Ferry Fare Revenue Target:

It is the desire of the Board to implement fare increases to reach a 65% fare box revenue target phased over a 5-year period from August 15, 2023, through December 31, 2028, as follows:

- Implement the first fare increase in summer 2023, to be effective through December 2024. The recommended fare schedule is provided in Exhibit B.
- Adjust fares on an annual basis beginning in January 2025 to achieve a 65% fare box recovery by 2028. Such fare adjustments shall be made subject to an annual public hearing.
 - Update the 2028 5-year average annual O&M cost with new expenditure data and updated cost escalation rates.
 - Re-run the fare model to confirm the required fare adjustment to achieve the updated 2028 average O&M and establish new fare levels.

The methodology establishes a 5-year average O&M expenditure projection using the past two years actual expenditures, the current year's approved budget, and the next two year's projected expenditures using cost escalation factors.

Additional assumptions:

Other tax revenue:

- Contributions from the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (MFVT) attributable to the ferry system, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) deficit reimbursement will be applied before the 65% revenue target is calculated.

Reporting Requirements:

During the annual preparation of the department's budget, Public Works will prepare and submit a report to the Board that calculates the County's ferry fare revenue target, pursuant to the above formula, and will recommend a ferry rate schedule for the upcoming calendar year with an estimate of revenues based on those rates. The first evaluation and report shall be prepared in summer 2024 in preparation for the January 1, 2025, fare adjustment.

EXHIBIT B
REVENUE TARGET CALCULATION

2025 Fare Revenue Target Calculation

Year	Actual (2)		Adjusted Budget 2024	Projected (2)		Five-Year Average
	2022	2023		2025	2026	
O&M Expenditures	2,904,593.61	3,672,133.00	4,169,791.50	4,690,434.00	4,830,677.97	4,053,526.02
MVFT	132,992.00	150,119.00	132,050.60	132,050.60	132,050.60	135,852.56
Deficit Reimbursement (1)	451,672.00	212,507.00	244,828.00	244,828.00	244,828.00	279,732.60
Adjusted O&M (1)	2,319,929.61	3,309,507.00	3,792,912.90	4,313,555.40	4,453,799.37	3,637,940.86
Fare Recovery Requirement						65%
2025 Ferry Fare Revenue Target						2,364,661.56

(1) 5-year average (2019-2023), used for 2024, 2025, and 2026 projected

(2) Cost escalation has been adjusted for recent inflation projections -Seattle area CPI

Projected Revenue at 2025 Fare Levels	1,827,812
Fare Box Recovery	50.2%

EXHIBIT C

2025 GUEMES ISLAND FERRY FARE SCHEDULE

Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

2025 Guemes Island Ferry Fare Schedule	POSTED FARE		SURCHARGE	
	NON-PEAK	PEAK	NON-PEAK	PEAK
FARES (1) (2) (3)				
PASSENGER (1) (2) (3)				
Adult	5.50	6.75	1.00	1.00
Senior (+65)/Disabled	3.00	4.00	0.00	0.50
Youth - 18 and under (4)	Free	Free	0.00	0.00
Rider & Bicycle	6.75	8.50	1.00	1.00
Riders & Bicycle senior/disabled	4.50	5.75	0.00	0.50
PASSENGER MULTI-RIDE (1) (2) (3) (5)				
25-trip adult passenger	105.75	132.25	10.00	10.00
25-trip senior/disabled	69.75	80.50	6.00	6.00
VEHICLE (22 FT OR LESS INCLUDING OVERHANG) (1) (2) (3)				
Motorcycle & rider	9.75	14.00	1.00	2.00
Vehicle/driver under 22 feet	17.00	21.00	2.00	3.00
Vehicle/driver senior/disabled under 22 feet	14.00	17.00	2.00	2.00
VEHICLE & DRIVER MULTI-RIDE (1) (2) (3)				
20-trip under 22 feet	281.00	332.00	26.00	26.00
20-trip under 22 feet senior/disabled	224.00	275.00	20.00	20.00
20-trip Motorcycle	163.75	219.00	15.00	15.00
VEHICLE NEEDS-BASED (1) (2) (3) (6)				
5-trip Senior/Disabled (RCW 84.36.381) needs-based	56.00	68.75	5.00	5.00
OVERSIZED VEHICLES (1) (2) (3)				
Over 22 feet under 30 feet	27.75	33.25	4.00	6.00
Under 40 feet	51.25	60.75	8.00	11.00
Under 50 feet	77.25	91.00	11.00	18.00
Under 60 feet	100.50	120.00	19.00	23.00
Each 10 foot over 60	21.25	23.25	4.00	4.00
Over width charge (over 8 feet 6 inches)	Double Length Charge			
OVERSIZED VEHICLES 5-TRIP MULTI-RIDE (1) (2) (3)				
Over 22 feet under 30 feet	138.75	166.25	20.00	30.00
Under 40 feet	256.25	303.75	40.00	55.00
Under 50 feet	386.25	455.00	55.00	90.00
Under 60 feet	502.50	600.00	95.00	115.00
MISCELLANEOUS				
After-Hours Charter/Extra Trip Private/Commercial (7)	1500/first trip & 500 for additional successive trips, plus fare			
Private Charter/Extra Trip/HAZMAT During Operating Hours (8)	750/trip, plus fare			
Intergovernmental Emergency Services Dispatched by 911 (9)	Actual cost, plus fare			

(1) All tickets (including multi-ride passes) are valid through December 31, 2025. Non-peak tickets cannot be used during the peak season (May 20 – September 30).

(2) No refunds. For questions, contact pw@co.skagit.wa.us.

(3) Posted fares include capital vessel replacement surcharge.

(4) Includes youth traveling on school bus and youth traveling with bicycle.

(5) Bicycle free with passenger multi-ride.

- (6) Needs-based multi-ride passes must be purchased in person at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, ahead of sailing. Eligibility: Guemes Island residents who qualify for, and are actively enrolled in, the County's Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Exemption Program, as administered by the Skagit County Assessor's Office per RCW 84.36.381, providing certain property tax exemptions for qualifying persons.
- (7) The rate for a private charter or extra trip after-hours, if the ferry is available, is \$1,500/trip, plus fare. Additional trips for the same party immediately following the first trip will be \$500 each if the ferry is available. This includes private citizens or private commercial users regardless of the purpose of the trip.
- (8) Any charter/special/extra trip during the regular hours of operation/published sailing schedule is \$750, plus fare. This includes, but is not limited to, private trips and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) trips on which no other vehicles and passengers may travel.
- (9) For intergovernmental emergency services dispatched by 911 or Sheriff/Fire Dispatch after-hours (outside the published sailing schedule), when the ferry is available, the ferry division will bill for actual hourly costs, plus fare for each vehicle and passenger. Actual costs include hourly overtime salaries, wages, benefits, fuel, supplies, consumables, and fixed costs associated with operating the ferry system. Fuel, supplies, consumables, and fixed costs are based on the cost per hour calculation from the 2025 preliminary budget as follows.

2025 Cost Per Hour

Operating supplies - \$24.99

Fuel - \$45.62

Fixed costs - \$453.20

Note, after-hours ferry service is not guaranteed. If the request for services is cancelled by 911 or Sheriff/Fire Dispatch, or if the ferry is unavailable, an invoice will be generated for any costs incurred up until cancellation or notice of unavailability.

In accordance with Resolution R20120140, the hours of operation for the Guemes Island Ferry are:

Peak Season (May 20 through September 30)

Monday-Thursday	6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday-Saturday	6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Non-Peak Season (October 1 through May 19)

Monday-Thursday	6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday-Saturday	6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

After-hours service is defined as any services requested outside the hours of operation listed above. These times coincide with the published sailing schedule.