

RESOLUTION AMENDING AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION R20250260 REQUIRING
CONVERSION OF ALL PUNCH CARDS SOLD WITHOUT EXPIRATION.

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

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2024, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners (“Board”) adopted resolution R20240282 which suspended all punch card sales as of December 30, 2024, provided that all cards sold would only be valid for use until the stated expiration date and required all punch cards would be allowed to be used upon the end of the 2025 dry dock; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution R20250009, amending and superseding Resolution R20240282, suspending the sale of and limiting future use of all paper punch cards (marked with an expiration date), which extended the period of use to two (2) weeks following the ferry’s return from drydock; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R20250009 allowed use of all COVID Emergency Punch Cards (issued without expiration) and convenience cards (sold between August 1, 2018, and August 15, 2023 and marked “non-expiry”) through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, during the fare evaluation process in 2024, numerous comments were received about the punch cards sold without expiration during the early stages of COVID between April 24, 2020, to May 20, 2020, and for other cards previously sold as represented without expiration and the Board has been approached by public works about alternative relief; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution R20250260, amending and superseding Resolution R20250009, providing for conversion of unused COVID era punch cards to electronic ticketing by December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2026, in Skagit County Superior Court Case No: 25-2-00131-29 on an appeal of Resolution R20250009, the Court issued a decision that invalidated R20250009, finding that invalidation of tickets marketed and sold without expiration was inappropriate and remanded to the Board for further action consistent herewith; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R20250260 gave partial relief as to cards sold during COVID but did not address all cards previously sold without expiration; and

WHEREAS, the new Gumes Ferry electronic ticketing system permits the crediting of the trips and issuance of a QR code for future travel upon surrender of the values of the remaining unused punch cards purchased during COVID, and the Board has decided to provide for this alternative relief; and

WHEREAS, full conversion to the process of electronic ticketing by QR code is anticipated to improve ticketing, and retaining and allowing use of punch cards creates confusion for separate ticketing processes; and

WHEREAS, both R20240282 and R20250009 had previously provided for discontinuation of punch cards to further the full implementation of electronic ticketing; and

WHEREAS, conversion of all unused cards by December 31, 2026, will provide sufficient time for all those in possession of punch cards to convert them to electronic ticketing.

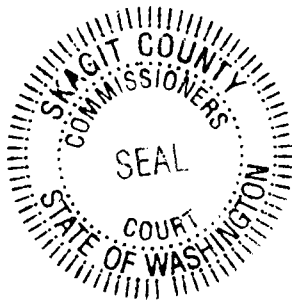
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that R20250260 is hereby amended and superseded to provide that all punch cards previously sold without expiration including COVID Emergency Punch Cards (issued without an expiration date) and the Convenience Cards (marked "no expiry"), must be converted to an equivalent number of trips in the electronic ticketing system before close of business office hours on December 31, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that all such punch card conversion shall result in the holder receiving an equivalent number of trips which shall be allowed to be redeemed indefinitely; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that such punch card conversion must be accomplished at the Ferry Office at 500 I Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221, and may only be completed by appointment, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. no later than December 31, 2026.

DATED this 23 day of March, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Ron Wesen

Ron Wesen, Chair

Peter Browning
Peter Browning, Commissioner

Joe Burns
Joe Burns, Commissioner

Attest:

Amber Evers
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Erik Pedersen
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Erik Pedersen, Reviewed 3/17/2026

Approved as to Content:

Michael Lee
Department Head