

Technical Advisory Group Meeting #2

# **Guemes Island Ferry Replacement**

*Review of Propulsion Studies*

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December 8, 2025



# **Guemes Island Ferry Propulsion & Power Study**

## *Feasibility of All-Electric Replacement for M/V Guemes*

- Prepared by Art Anderson Associates, June 2016
- Presented to Skagit County Commissioners June 21, 2016



# Purpose of the Study

- Assess feasibility of all-electric propulsion
- Evaluate battery technologies
  - (Lithium-ion vs. Vanadium Redox Flow)
- Compare alternatives
  - (diesel, hybrid, LNG, hydrogen fuel cell)
- Ensure compliance with US Coast Guard regulations
- Support Skagit County's goals: reliability, capacity, sustainability



# Key Findings – Energy Needs

- Average trip: **77.4 kWh**
- High-current trip: **118.2 kWh**
- Daily operations: **~3.2 MWh** required
- Opportunity charging during the day is essential for efficiency



# Key Findings – Battery Options

Battery Type	Pros	Cons
Vanadium Redox Flow (VRF)	Lower cost, no degradation	Very heavy (~265 tons), unproven in marine use
Lithium-ion	Light (~8–10 tons), proven, flexible charging	Higher cost, degrades if fully discharged



# Recommendations

- Adopt all-electric propulsion
- Use Lithium-ion batteries
- Add opportunity charging station
- Lengthen vessel +25 ft → 30 cars, 150 passengers
- Install azimuthing thrusters
- Keep under 100 gross tons (Subchapter T)
- Hydrogen & LNG not advised



# Guemes Island Ferry Replacement Concept Design Report

## *Section 3 Propulsion Analysis*

- Prepared by Glosten, December 2017
- Presented to Guemes Island Public Forum January 25, 2018



# Propulsion Analysis

## Five Propulsion Options

- Geared Diesel (baseline)
- Diesel Electric
- Series Hybrid
- All-Electric
- Plug-in Hybrid





# Propulsion Analysis

## Considerations/Criteria

- Operating Profile/Emergency Services
- Power Requirements
- Emissions
- Lifecycle
  - Upfront Capital Cost
  - Ongoing Operating Cost
  - Repower



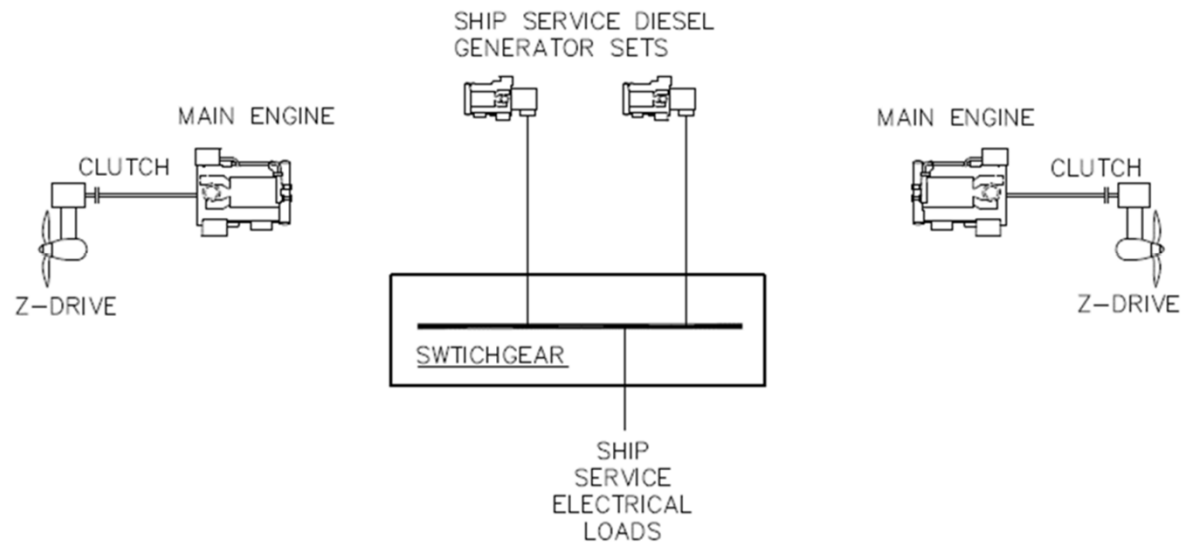
# Geared Diesel

## Benefits

- *Simple*
- *Robust*
- *Common*
- *Efficient*

## Drawbacks

- *Engine Size*
- *Main Engine Redundancy*
- *Torque Limitations*



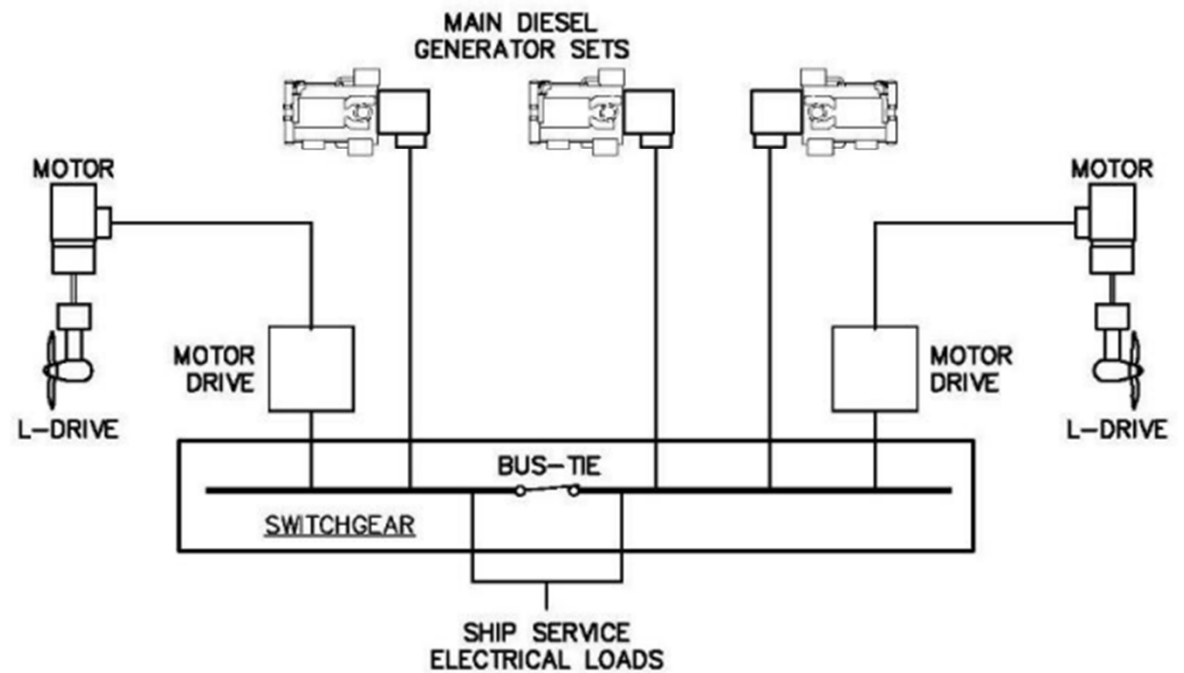
# Diesel-Electric

## Benefits

- *Fast Response*
- *Constant Torque*
- *Load Sharing*

## Drawbacks

- *Efficiency*



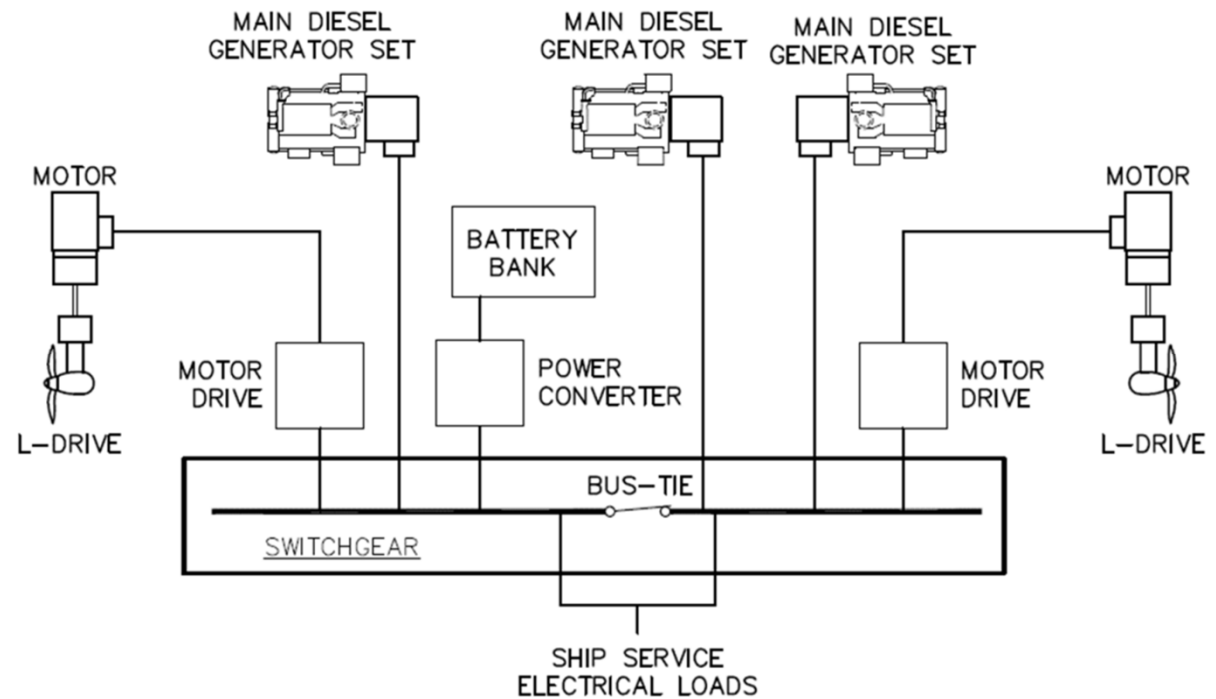
# Series Hybrid

## Benefits

- *Load Sharing*

## Drawbacks

- *Complexity*
- *Cost*



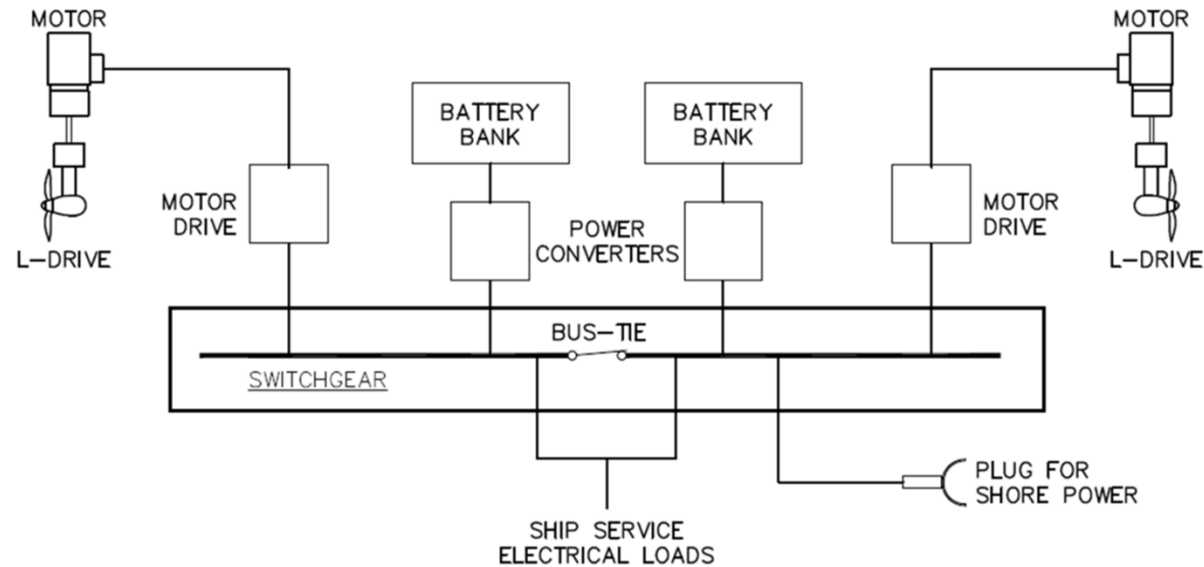
# All-Electric

## Benefits

- *Fast Response*
- *Emissions*
- *Noise*
- *Maintenance*
- *No Diesel Fuel*

## Drawbacks

- *Shore Charging*
- *Vessel Range*



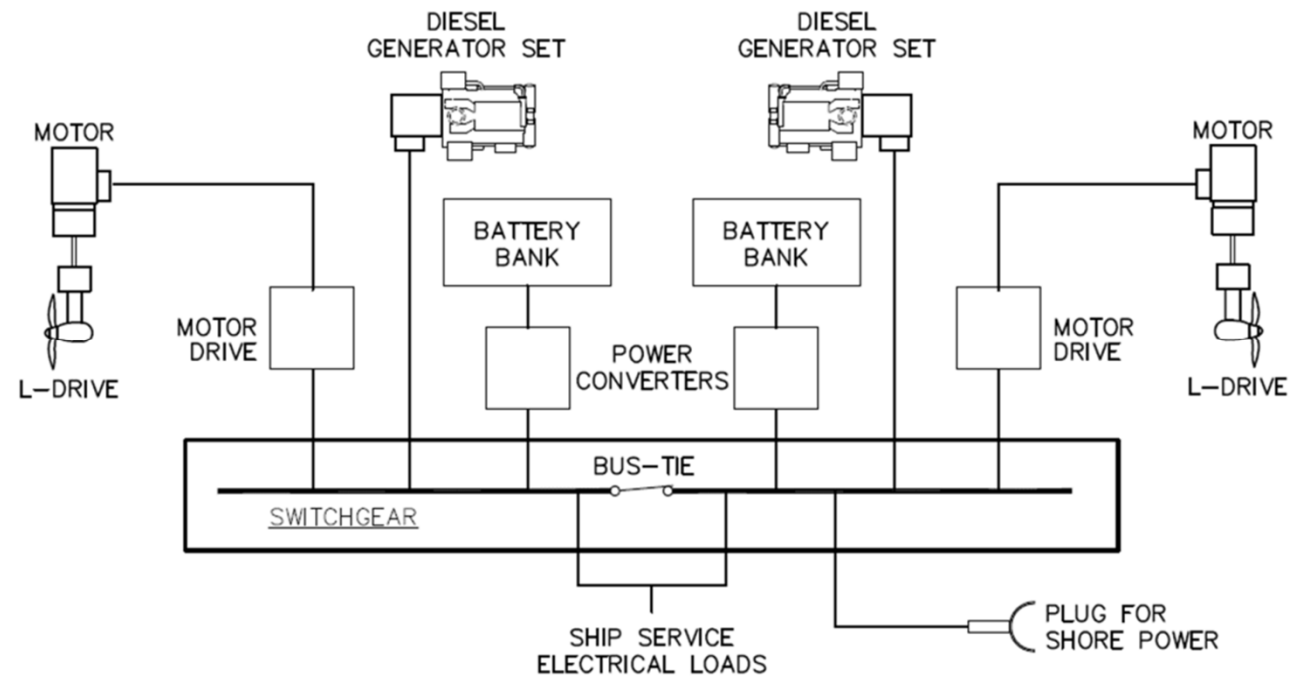
# Plug-In Hybrid

## Benefits

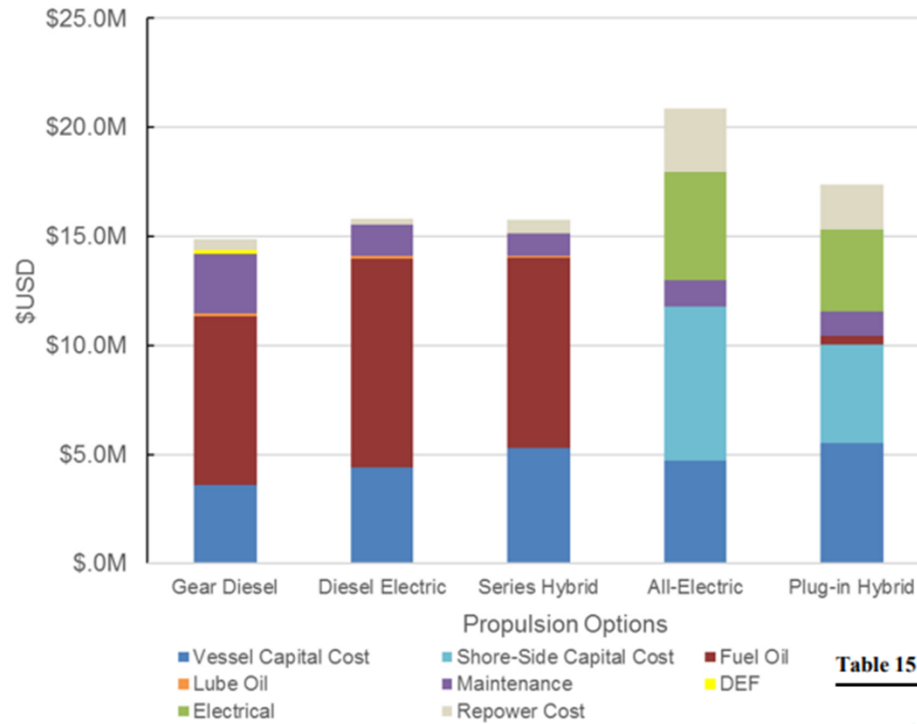
- *Capital Cost*

## Drawbacks

- *Complexity*



# Life Cycle Cost – 40 Year

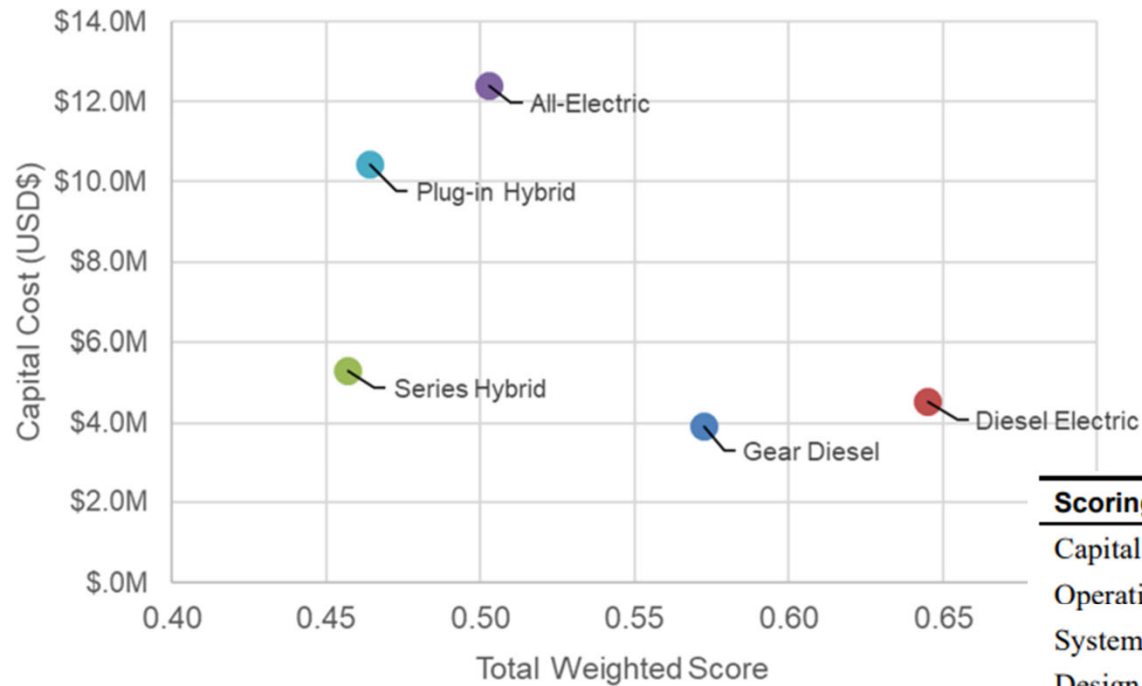


**Table 15 Life cycle cost comparison of propulsion systems**

Relative Cost (compared to baseline)	Geared Diesel	Diesel Electric	Series Hybrid	All-Electric	Plug-in Hybrid
Capital Cost	-	23.0%	47.1%	227.7%	178.9%
Fuel, Lube, DEF, & Electrical	-	21.5%	10.2%	-39.5%	-50.3%
Operations & Maintenance	-	-48.5%	-63.6%	-56.2%	-58.8%
Repower (Engines & Batteries)	-	-43.8%	26.4%	452.9%	297.6%
<b>Total Life Cycle Cost</b>	-	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>



# Weighted Scoring – Propulsion System

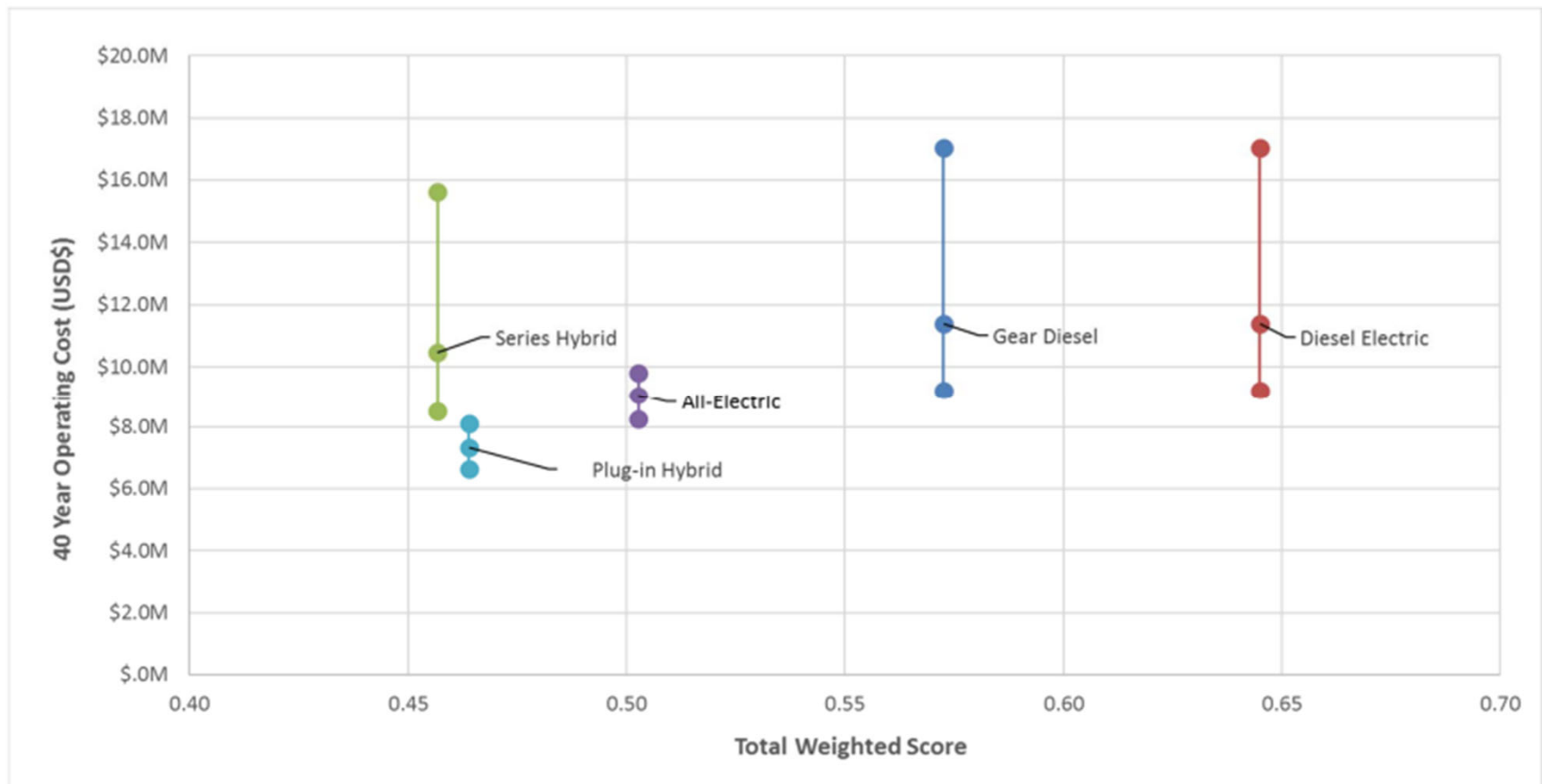


Scoring Category	Weighting Factor
Capital Cost	0%
Operations and Maintenance Cost	0%
System Weight	10%
Design and Build Complexity	20%
Reliability and Availability	45%
Airborne Noise	10%
Vessel Air Emissions	15%
<b>TOTAL (must equal 100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>

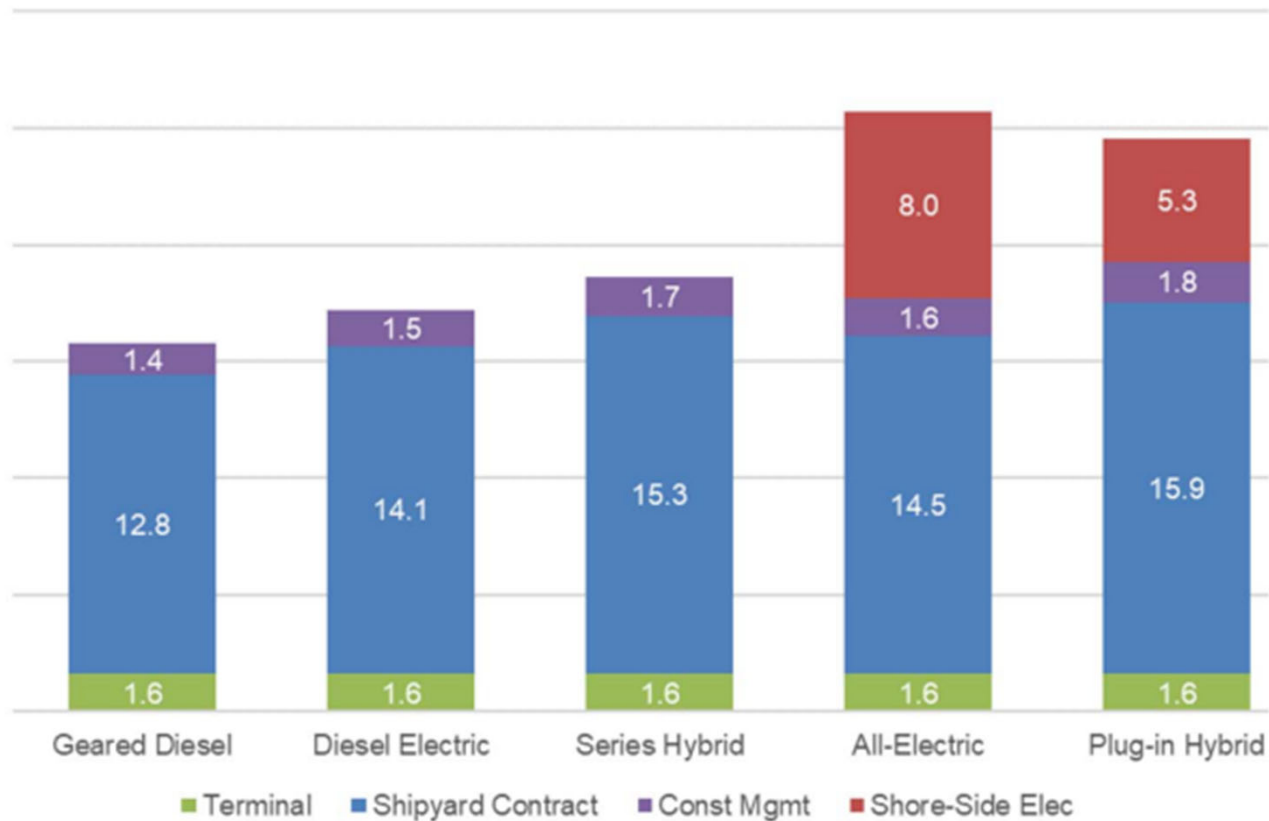




# Operating Cost – Propulsion System



# Engineer's Capital Cost Estimate (M)



# **Guemes Island Ferry Lifecycle Valuation & Propulsion Study**

– Prepared by Art Anderson Associates, March 2020



# Purpose of the Study

Determine Guemes's fate based on three scenarios

- 1) Vessel retained longer than anticipated (new ferry is delayed)
- 2) Vessel retained for interim ferry when new e-ferry is out of service
- 3) The vessel sold when new e-ferry is online

Focus on the following to assist in decision-making

- 1) Vessel valuation & condition (as of 2019)
- 2) Hull condition
- 3) Propulsion study
- 4) Generator study
- 5) Recommended maintenance/modification
- 6) Risk assessment



# Key Findings

## Structural/Mechanical

- Overall excellent condition
- Steel structures - serviceable for 20 years
- Mechanical systems – serviceable for 10 years

## Maintenance Expenses

Item	2-year outlook	5-year cost outlook	10-year cost outlook
Main Engines	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Z-drives	\$250,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$1,200,000.00



# Key Findings – Vessel Valuation

## 2-year Projection

The estimated costs/values of the M/V Guemes in two [2]-years (2021) is as follows:

Fair Market Value	\$2,188,000.00
Cumulative Cost to Cure	\$1,500,000.00
Difference of between cost and FMV	\$688,000.00

## 5-year Projection

The estimated costs/values of the M/V Guemes in five [5] years (2024) is as follows:

Fair Market Value	\$1,367,500.00
Cumulative Cost to Cure	\$3,750,000.00
Difference of between cost and FMV	(\$2,383,500.00)

## 10-year Projection

The estimated costs/values of the M/V Guemes in ten [10] years (2029) is as follows:

Fair Market Value	\$3,444,000.00
Cumulative Cost to Cure	\$9,818,322.00
Difference of between cost and FMV	\$(6,374,322.00)



# Key Findings - Risk

## Physical Risks (Machinery)

- Relatively low for next 10 years – thru 2029
- Increase with time

## Regulatory Risks

- Major refit – excessive modifications to meet future regulations
- Increase with time

## Financial Risks

- High regardless of option
- Increase with time

