Agenda Item 6f: 2018 FTA Adjustments Process
Public comments on new Skagit Transit and Kitsap Transit projects
July 5 - 26, 2018

Comments Received for Skagit Transit Projects

Skagit Transit is recommended to receive PSRC funds for two projects. One project is recommended to receive $231,669 in funding that will be used to expand and replace the agency’s vanpool and commuter bus vehicle fleet. The other Skagit Transit project is recommended to receive $124,697 in funding for the agency’s commuter bus operations.

Comment from Mr. Brian Jones:

As a long-time, daily commuter from, Skagit County to the City of Everett, I heartily support the award of PSRC funds for Skagit Transit’s invaluable commuter services. Scores of commuters such as myself rely on these services every day, which are an effective means of reducing traffic volumes and vehicle emissions.

Please approve the award of the PSRC funding to Skagit Transit. Thanks.

Comments Received for Kitsap Transit Project

The Kitsap Transit project is recommended to receive $418,209 in funding for preventative maintenance of the agency’s passenger-only ferry service terminals.

Comment from Ms. Tanya Ulrich, Senior Applications Analyst, UW Medicine Information Technology Services:

To whom it may concern:

I am in support of passing the proposal to allocate around $400,000 on preventative maintenance to passenger ferry terminals in the Puget Sound. I live and Kitsap County and I am heavily reliant on the Ferry Systems to commute to UW/Harborview Medical Center each day for work.

Signing up for the U-PASS and utilizing the Fast Ferry system has significantly improved my commute. It cuts down almost 2 hours of my time commuting as opposed to using the WSF. The Fast Ferry is extremely efficient for walking passengers, it takes less time to load and unload in addition to the benefit of a 30 minute crossing time to & from Bremerton. It has made a world of difference in my afternoons just by getting home at an earlier time.

Please let me know how I can help with this effort.
Have a great day
Comment from Ms. Kristie Paylor, RN/BSN/CMAS, Audit Coordinator, UW Medicine:

Currently I commute home by taking the King County Water Taxi from Colman Dock to Vashon, then get on a WSF to Southworth. At Colman, it is very evident that the Fast Ferries are greatly loved and highly used, by the lengthy lines and full capacity.

If there is any way the Fast Ferry service between Southworth and downtown Seattle can be expedited, please make this a priority. It’s not clear why Southworth has to wait until 2019, when we currently have no service at all to downtown Seattle and very little direct service to Fauntleroy. Many people in the Southworth area commute to downtown Seattle and what could be a half hour passenger direct commute via Fast Ferry, take 1.5 hours when SWF stops at Vashon, then a bus is taken from Fauntleroy to downtown Seattle. Those of us who work in Seattle bring a lot to the Kitsap economy. Students from Kitsap, attending colleges in Seattle, also face long commute times due to few college options in Seattle. Also, Kitsap residents who travel to Seattle for sports games and entertainment, would be more likely to take a passenger Fast Ferry than driving a car, as many do currently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comment from Mayor Putaansuu, Port Orchard, attached
July 10, 2018

Kelly McGourty
Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

Re: Kitsap Transit Project for Passenger Ferry Terminal Preventive Maintenance Addition to PSRC Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Ms. McGourty:

The City Council of Port Orchard wishes to express its support for the above-described project, which is proposed to be added to the PSRC’s Regional Transportation Improvement Program on July 26, 2018.

The City of Port Orchard greatly benefits from the passenger-only ferry services provided by Kitsap Transit. The local passenger ferries that serve Port Orchard and Annapolis transport commuters from Port Orchard and Bremerton to jobs and services in each city and connect Port Orchard riders with additional local and regional transit options in Bremerton. The fast passenger ferry from Bremerton to Seattle enables Port Orchard residents to quickly and easily travel to Seattle and encourages “quick getaway” tourism from Seattle to the Kitsap peninsula. The fast ferry also supports the growing trend of Seattle-area workers who seek to relocate to Port Orchard and Bremerton for less-expensive housing while continuing to work in Seattle.

As the populations of Port Orchard and Bremerton continue to grow, there will be increased demand for public transit services between these local cities and between the Kitsap peninsula and Seattle. Kitsap Transit’s passenger-only ferries provide an efficient transit option which is faster than vehicular travel, takes vehicle trips off local and regional roadways, and encourages local economic growth. The ongoing maintenance of the passenger ferry terminals is essential for Kitsap Transit to continue providing high-quality ferry transit. The City of Port Orchard therefore encourages the PSRC to include Kitsap Transit’s passenger ferry terminal preventive maintenance project in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

Robert Putaansuu
Mayor