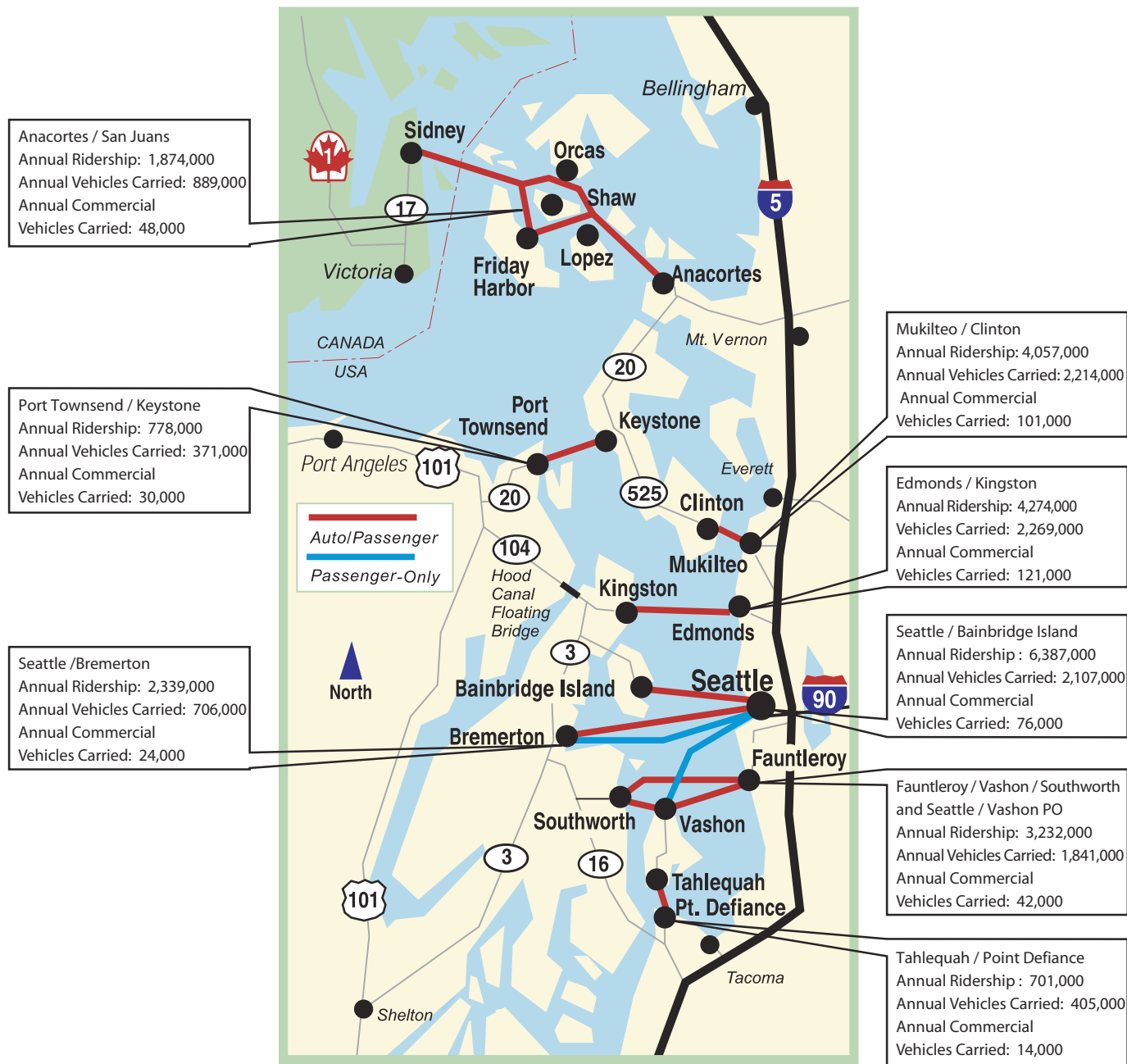


Washington State Ferries



* Ridership numbers are based on 2005 statistics.

For More Information:

Visit: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries | **Email:** wsf@wsdot.wa.gov

Call: 1-888-808-7977 (in WA state) | (206) 464-6400 (in Seattle and outside WA state)

Prepared by Washington State Ferries, Customer and Community Relations (May, 2006)



An Introduction To The Largest Ferry System In The Nation



SINCE ITS CREATION ON JUNE 1, 1951, Washington State Ferries (WSF) has become the largest ferry system in the United States and the third largest in the world. Over 24 million people ride on Washington State Ferries each year. In comparison, B.C. Ferries carries 22 million, Staten Island Ferry in New York carries 20 million riders, and Alaska Marine Highway carries 400,000.

WSF operates 28 vessels and 20 ferry terminals, from Point Defiance (Tacoma) in the south, to Sidney, British Columbia in the north. Thousands of commuters, employers, students, tourists and

commercial shippers depend on WSF every day for safe, reliable transportation across the Sound.

Washington State Ferries is:

- A Transit Agency
- A Marine Highway
- A Mover of Freight and Goods
- An Environmental Steward
- A Source of Tourism and Economic Development
- A Key Link in the Region's Multi-modal Connections
- A Provider of Safety and Security to Passengers and Employees
- An Organization Planning for the Future

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

Washington State Ferries Is The Largest Ferry System In The Nation

We Are A Transit Agency

Washington State Ferries is the largest ferry transit system in the United States and one of the busiest. We currently carry 24 million riders annually and our ridership is projected to grow by approximately 70% over the next 25 years.

We are also the second largest transit system in Washington State, second only to King County Metro. Commuters make up about 50% of our annual ridership. On our busiest commuter route, Bainbridge Island to Seattle, we carry about 18,000 riders on an average day. A Jumbo Mark II class ferryboat, used on the Bainbridge to Seattle run, has the capacity to carry 2,500 passengers per trip. This is equivalent to the carrying capacity of 208 12-seat vanpools, 60 40-foot buses, 17 commuter rail cars, or five 747 airplanes.

We Are A Marine Highway Across Puget Sound

WSF is an essential part of Western Washington's highway network, serving eight counties within Washington and the province of British Columbia in Canada.

We operate 10 ferry routes with nearly 500 sailings per day, providing critical links between urban areas on the east side of Puget Sound and growing communities on the Kitsap Peninsula. We also serve more rural destinations on the Olympic Peninsula and the San Juan Islands. We carry approximately 11 million vehicles annually along 200 miles of marine highway.

For the communities of Vashon Island and the San Juan Islands, we provide the only practical link for vehicles – personal and commercial – to the mainland.

We Are A Mover of Freight and Goods



WSF vessels and terminals are specially constructed to accommodate commercial truck volumes, height, tonnage and turning radiuses. We are the sole link for commercial



vehicles to Vashon and the San Juan Islands. WSF operates a dedicated "HazMat" run to and from Vashon Island each day for delivery of fuel, solvents and other hazardous materials.

Island residents rely on WSF for delivery of groceries and other basic supplies and services. Island businesses depend on WSF to get their products off the island and to the markets. In order to support the movement of commercial freight, WSF gives priority loading in the San Juan Islands to commercial vehicles via a reservation system.

We Are A Key Link In The Region's Multi-Modal Connections

WSF services and facilities form a critical link in the State's network of multi-modal connections between marine transportation and vanpool, auto, pedestrian, bicycle, bus, trolley, commuter rail, monorail, freight and local transportation modes. Priority loading for freight, bicycles, vanpools and carpools, along with park and ride lots at ferry terminals, and schedule integration with our transit partners are just some of the many ways we promote modal diversity and seamless connections for our customers.

We Are Environmental Stewards

Washington State Ferries shows our commitment to a greener and cleaner Puget Sound through a variety of environmental initiatives.

As a major consumer of diesel fuel (about 19 million gallons each year), WSF has begun implementing a fuel consumption and emissions reduction program. For example, we've installed energy efficient engines that burn cleaner with less fuel. We've installed fuel injectors that are reducing our fuel consumption.

In the early 1990's WSF instituted an aggressive oil-recycling program. We now recycle tens of thousands of gallons of oil per year. In fact, we even designed special filter crushers in order to squeeze out all the residual oil prior to disposal.

WSF received an Environmental Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration for our work with scientists at Battelle and the University of Washington on an innovative approach to eelgrass restoration at the Clinton ferry terminal.

WSF is also taking the lead in removing creosote-treated timber from our facilities in Puget Sound. To date, we have removed over 1.5 million board feet of creosote-treated wood and have plans to remove an additional 14 million over the next ten years as a part of our projects at Anacortes, Bainbridge Island, Eagle Harbor maintenance facility, Friday Harbor, Keystone, Mukilteo, Port Townsend, and Seattle's Colman Dock.

We Are A Tourist Destination And Source Of Economic Development

We are a major tourist attraction in Washington and, like the Space Needle, a true icon of the Northwest. As the gateway to the San Juan Islands, British Columbia and the Olympic Peninsula, we transport over a million passengers and vehicles during our peak tourist season.

Washington State Ferries has provided access to jobs for West Sound residents for the past 50 years. Our state ferry system is a critical link between more affordable housing on the west side of the Sound and key employment centers on the east side of the Sound.

Passengers And Employees Rely On Us For Safety And Security

WSF is a port of entry and a border crossing. As demonstrated at the ferry terminal in Port Angeles, where Ahmed Ressam was caught smuggling explosives across the border intended for an act of terrorism, ferry systems are a potential means for transporting weapons, as well as potential terrorist targets.

With funding from the USDOT, WSF has initiated emergency preparedness drills on our vessels to simulate a response to a



vessel hijacking and HazMat emergency situations. Drills are conducted in cooperation with the Washington State Patrol, Kitsap County Sheriff's office, Seattle Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Together with the Washington State Patrol and the U.S. Coast Guard, Washington State Ferries developed a comprehensive security plan aimed at protecting the ferry system's passengers and satisfying the requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002.

We Are Planning A Ferry System For The Future

Many of WSF's terminals were built decades ago and need major repairs and upgrades to ensure reliable ferry service for years to come. Over the next decade, WSF will renovate eight of its facilities and build new boats to replace the oldest ones in the fleet. These improvements will help WSF prepare for the 70% increase in ridership in the next 25 years.

Major preservation and improvement projects at terminals in Seattle, Keystone, Anacortes, Port Townsend, Bainbridge Island, Mukilteo and Edmonds will help make terminals safer and more efficient. Eagle Harbor, the "hub" for all WSF vessel and terminal maintenance, is being rehabilitated to ensure efficient operations over the next 30 years.

Decisions on services and investments are guided by WSF's long-range strategic plan. This plan is being updated in 2006, and will help WSF plan now for service it will provide in 2030 and beyond.