

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2017-081

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	RM	2/8/17	RECEIVED FEB 14 2017 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	2/21/17	Public Works /Council
Division Head:	RN	2/8/17			
Dept. Head:	HT	2/9/17			
Prosecutor:	dlg <i>LL</i>	02/08/17 ^{02/09/17}			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	TRG	2/13/17			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Establishing a new level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry System

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- *Proposed resolution*
 - *Proposed Level of Service goals and alternatives analysis action plan*

SEPA review required? () Yes (x) NO SEPA review completed? () Yes (n/a) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (x) NO Requested Date:
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SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

The Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee is recommending the Whatcom County Council adopt the proposed resolution with exhibit A to establish a new level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry System.

COMMITTEE ACTION:	COUNCIL ACTION:

Related County Contract #:	Related File Numbers:	Ordinance or Resolution Number:


Please Note: *Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.*



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, and
Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director

From: Roland Middleton, Special Programs Manager 

Date: February 8, 2017

RE: LIFAC proposed resolution for a new level of service for the Lummi
Island Ferry System

The Whatcom County Council created the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) in part to provide recommendations on proposed changes to ferry operations, ferry replacement, and long-term planning for the level of service of the Lummi Island Ferry System (WCC 2.145; WC Ord # 2012-005).

Whatcom County Public Works Department was asked to assist LIFAC with their proposed new level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry System. LIFAC is requesting the Whatcom County Council adopt the attached resolution and exhibit A. Whatcom County Public Work submits the Agenda Bill on LIFAC's behalf.

The resolution:

- Establishes goals for the new level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry Service.
- Establishes a time lime for the replacement of the current ferry vessel.
- Outlines the scope of work for the feasibility study required under Policy 6C-9 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

*Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan
Policy 6C-9*

Conduct a ferry feasibility study to inform the next annual Comprehensive Plan update so that sufficient planning, engineering, design and cost detail is available to use in competing for grants and other sources of funding for a replacement ferry. LIFAC should provide input on the scope of work and any consultants or vendors retained, as well as reviewing and providing input on key milestones.

PROPOSED BY: _____

INTRODUCED: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING A NEW LEVEL OF SERVICE
FOR THE LUMMI ISLAND FERRY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to review and provide recommendations on proposed changes to ferry operations and fares; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to assist the county in collecting information from ferry riders on actual and desired ferry services, concerns, and ideas for improved service; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to analyze and develop recommendations to continue and improve the cost-effective operation of ferry service to Lummi Island; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to research, review, and make recommendations regarding ferry replacement, long-term planning, parking, transportation to and from ferry docks, alternative docking locations, alternative funding sources, and other major capital and operational issues regarding ferry service to Lummi Island; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee continues to work with Whatcom County Public Works to establish a quantified measurement for Level of Service; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom Chief now approaches 60 years in service, the expected life span of a ferry as set by the Washington State Ferries; and,

WHEREAS, components of the Gooseberry Point approach span are reaching the end of their design life, which may result in the current weight restrictions on the system being increased, resulting in lowering the allowed vehicle weight; and,

WHEREAS, a completion target date will assist the Whatcom County Public Works Department in scheduling capital improvements and maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee continues to work with Whatcom County Public Works to propose an action plan to accomplish the new Level of Service; and,

WHEREAS, Policy 6C-9 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan identifies the need for a ferry feasibility study to prepare planning, engineering, design and cost details for a replacement ferry, and also provides context for the resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee has recommended new goals for the Level of Service for the Lummi Island Ferry System to include, but not be limited to those identified in Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Whatcom County Council approves the Level of Service for the Lummi Island Ferry Service as shown on the attachment hereto (Exhibit A).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that putting the replacement vessel into service and completion of other needed improvements to meet the new Level of Service are to be accomplished by December 31, 2026.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20__.


ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Daniel L. Gibson, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Exhibit A
Lummi Island Ferry Service LOS

- 1. The Level of Service (LOS) goals for the Lummi Island Ferry System are to:**
 - a. Provide a vessel that will:
 - i. Continue to meet and comply with current US Coast Guard safety standards.
 - ii. Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - iii. Accommodate legal loads of vehicles per the Washington State Commercial Vehicle Guide.
 - iv. Balance capacity against operating costs (fuel, personnel, etc.) to ensure affordable fares over the long run, including needs based fares.
 - v. Optimize vehicle demand, deck space, and trip frequency to minimize wait times.
 - vi. Accommodate all walk-on passengers during typical peak times.
 - vii. To the greatest extent possible, provide a carbon neutral vessel.
 - b. Provide parking spaces at both landings to accommodate dry dock times as well as peak walk-on commuters.
 - c. Provide an alternative location on Gooseberry Point for the current landing site.
 - d. Build and maintain all infrastructures to accommodate 100-year sea level rise prediction by NOAA.

- 2. Draft an LOS Ferry System Action Plan for the Whatcom County Council:**
 - a. The plan is to be completed prior to June 30, 2018.
 - b. The action plan will include:
 - i. Quantifiable measurements for the adopted LOS, e.g., Volume/Capacity and no more than two boat wait times as measured during weekday peak periods.
 - ii. Specific recommendations for service facilities to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Restrooms
 - b. Off-ferry ticketing kiosks
 - c. Parking area security
 - iii. Preliminary estimated costs to complete the improvements for the adopted LOS.
 - iv. Preliminary alternatives in funding the necessary improvements.

Exhibit A
Lummi Island Ferry Service LOS

- v. Give direction and draft Scope of Work for a consultant to prepare the Ferry Feasibility Study to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Alternatives analysis for a Gooseberry Landing location.
 - b. Analysis of the impact of climate change on the ferry system.
 - c. Alternatives analysis for preliminary design of vessel to meet the LOS.
 - d. Alternatives analysis for the addition of a second vehicle vessel for use during dry dock or as a back-up during emergencies.
 - e. Cost analysis for all alternatives
 - f. Funding alternatives to meet the LOS