

Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission:

I would like to express my dissatisfaction in the public hearing scheduled yesterday at the Kingston Junior High School on the Kingston/Seattle Passenger-Only Ferry. I arrived just before 8pm for a hearing that was supposed to last from 6pm until 9pm. The meeting was over when I arrived with only a few people from Kitsap Transit and the public remaining in the meeting room.

I live approximately 10 miles from Kingston and commute to downtown Seattle every day. That is a 1:45 to 2 hour commute each way, taking the bus to the Bainbridge ferry, and walking in Seattle. Using a passenger only ferry from Kingston could reduce that time significantly because I am 10 miles from Kingston and more than 20 miles from Bainbridge.

It is impossible for me to attend a day or early evening meeting and I was excited to attend this one because it would still be going on when it was possible for me to attend a portion of it. However, it ended before 8pm, more than an hour earlier than scheduled. When I was walking out another lady was walking in also hoping to attend. Her comment was, "Some of us have to work".

I believe that scheduling or ending public meetings at times that the people interested in the service can not attend, in this case commuters that do not get home until 7 or 8pm, does not serve to allow public comment on this service. I would like to express my vote as a "no", simply because I do not have any idea what is going on, I was not allowed the opportunity to participate in the process because the UTC ended or allowed the meeting to end prior to the scheduled time, more than 1 hour before.

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