

**Lake Union Ferry Company**

506 2nd Avenue, Suite 2300

Seattle, WA 98104

360.790.5108

January 29, 2024

Kathy Hunter
Acting Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Received
Records Management
Jan 29, 2024

RE: In the matter of the cancellation of Commercial Ferry Certificate BC068215 held by Lake Union Ferry Company, LLC, Pursuant to WAC 480-51-150(1)(d), Docket TS-230613

Dear Kathy and UTC Staff,

Please accept this letter as Lake Union Ferry Company's request for a hearing to avoid cancellation of the commercial ferry certificate. Please see below which demonstrates progress made, current status, and explanations for no revenue generated in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 (most of which were significantly impacted by Covid).

2019

- Purchased Portage Bay Property for one of three terminals
- Identified multiple Fremont terminal sites
- Identified multiple South Lake Union sites
- Hired EBDG to perform conceptual boat design (30-40' LOA, 12' beam)
- Hired KPFF to complete dock design (identical to SLU park floating dock)

2020

- Tested full permitting path at Fremont site (included USACE, WDFW, City)
- City and WDFW permits obtained
- USACE required mitigation with tribal rights to fishing waterway, had a draft agreement to cover current and all future permits, **COVID froze discussions**

End of 2021

- Tribe blocked all new permits on Lake Union, Fremont dock terminal permit abandoned
- Alternative sites not requiring USACE permits identified (South Lake Union Park floating dock ideal)

2022

- Reassessment of ridership including reduced service due to commuter environment changed
- Modeling indicates more of a combination of commute and recreational riders



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Next steps in 2023 & 2024

- Discuss pilot program partnering with city, south lake union park, and terminals to the north including Jensen and alternative Fremont site that will not require an USACE permit

We have not built any boats or began any type of revenue service at this time. We do not expect to do so until city approvals for pilot program have been obtained. We are aiming for a Summer 2025 start up but much depends on city approvals and events that we cannot control.

In addition, we still plan to develop a Ballard service as part of phase two. This development is tabled until phase one is active and successful.

With this, we request that the permit is upheld through 2025 to once again allow for strides in initiating service. Please respond to let us know if this letter suffices in this regard, or if any additional steps are required to avoid cancellation and continue this project.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Stroble".

David Stroble

Principal

Lake Union Ferry Company