

Wyse, Lisa (UTC)

From: Kermode, Danny (UTC)
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 3:00 PM
To: Pratt, David (UTC); UTC DL Records Center
Subject: FW: Kingston Express Association - Aqua-Express petition to suspend to2009

Attachments: KEA _UTC 5-17-07.pdf



KEA _UTC
7-07.pdf (521

Dave and Lisa,

Please add the attachment and also this transmittal email to public comments for TS-070889.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 9:35 AM
To: Kermode, Danny (UTC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hi Danny,

Attached is a letter from the Kingston Express Association, commenting on the Aqua-Express petition. The original is in the mail. Feel free to post it as a public comment and please call if you have any questions.

Below is a summary of the current situation. I find particularly interesting the no-bid, cost-plus, 10 year exclusive contract for ferry service Aqua-Express has negotiated with Kitsap Transit. I doubt that sort of thing is in the public interest. It would be helpful if the Commissioners were made aware of the following:

Kitsap Transit paid the fuel, dock and boat lease for the Bremerton foot ferry when it was operating, but did not help pay for the Aqua-Express, which was all private.

Kitsap Transit has zero funding from federal, state and local sources at this time for cross-sound ferries.

Kitsap Transit will not pursue funding for ferries outside Bremerton.

Kitsap Transit has spent millions on plans, studies, research and lobbying for ferries in Bremerton, but never anything for Kingston or anywhere else.

Kitsap Transit has applied for a federal grant (FBD) to support a new \$8.4 million program to re-start service and research the Bremerton ferry.

The Port of Kingston has also applied for a federal ferry grant and if successful it may allow a re-start of the Kingston-Seattle ferry this year.

This is the first time anyone has applied for a grant for a Kingston ferry.

Other grant applications for a Kingston ferry are likely from Kingston.

Kitsap Transit does not like the Kingston FBD grant application and will not support, and I believe is trying to suppress, any effort to bring a ferry to Kingston before a regional or county foot ferry system is in place.

Kitsap Transit has told PSRC they plan to bring another ballot measure to the voters in

2009, but a recent media report says there are not plans for the next few years:
"Kitsap Transit's legal counsel Ron Templeton said there are no plans for restoration of service in the next few years and the extension is just to maintain the groundwork already set in place" - North Kitsap Herald, May 12, 2007.

Kitsap Transit may support an Aqua-Express petition to suspend service because it does not cost Kitsap Transit anything and helps Kitsap Transit stay in control of everything. Kitsap Transit has promised Aqua-Express a no-bid, cost-plus contract for 10 years for ferry service as part of a Joint Development Agreement.

There is a complex, multi-cornered negotiation underway between the Port of Kingston, Kitsap Transit and Aqua-Express (and the four different Aqua-Express partners) concerning the fate of the existing dock at the Port of Kingston. The UTC Certificate is a factor in these negotiations.

Legislation recently passed this year favors Kingston by making it the only place that is eligible for state funding for a foot ferry in Kitsap County (Senate Bill 5862). Kitsap Transit has said they will try to get this money, but use it for Bremerton ferries.

Nels

Nels Sultan, Ph.D, PE
Manager
Kingston Express Association
phone: 206.450.2620
nsultan@kingstonexpress.org | www.kingstonexpress.org