



The Fast Foot Ferry Solution

May 17, 2007

Attention: Mr. Danny Kermode

Ms. Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504 -7250

Subject: TS-070889 Aqua-Express Petition to extend the suspension of service to June 4, 2009

Dear Commission:

The Kingston Express Association does not support the request to extend the service suspension to June 4, 2009. There are better alternatives for Kingston, and Kitsap County, than waiting two more years, at least, for a county or regional ferry system.

The Kingston Express Association has developed a plan for foot ferry service between Kingston and Seattle, but does not yet have start-up funding. The Kingston Express Association will apply for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity when funding seems likely. Efforts are underway to obtain grant funding, but we can make no promises on when funding may materialize.

A number of grant opportunities are being pursued, including local, state and federal governments and private foundations. Recent legislation (Senate Bill 5862) makes funding for a Kingston ferry possible from the state Passenger-Only Ferry account, the only place in Kitsap County that would be eligible for state funding. In addition, an application for grant funding for a Kingston foot ferry has recently been submitted to the federal Ferry Boat Discretionary program. If a grant is received from the federal FBD program then ferry service could possibly start this year.

Sincerely,

Nels Sultan, Ph.D, P.E.
Manager
Kingston Express Association
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