



PORT of OLYMPIA

Citizens Advisory Committee - 2018

Passenger Ferry Study

Staff Lead:
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Background:
<p>Historically, the Mosquito Fleet provided passenger-only ferry service between the Olympia area and the Seattle area. After I-5 development, road transportation displaced much water-borne transportation. Now it can take 3 hours to drive to Seattle. A passenger ferry at 40 knots is comparable, and can have low environmental impacts. It can offer opportunities for commuting, tourism, emergency management, and other areas. A passenger ferry can offer alternatives in case of disruptions to ground transportation, such as an earthquake or a train crash on the highway. Thurston Regional Planning Council has identified federal programs to fund ferries and their operations. Other ports are interested in working with Olympia on this prospect.</p> <p>It would be useful to learn more about costs and benefits of a passenger ferry from Olympia to Seattle, in partnership with community members and stakeholders. The WA State Legislature has introduced SB 6054 requiring the Department of Transportation to complete a study on passenger-only ferries from Olympia; as of 28 Feb. 2018, it is in the Senate Transportation committee. (http://apps2.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=6054&Year=2017&BillNumber=6054&Year=2017).</p> <p>The 2008 “Puget Sound Regional Passenger-Only Ferry Study” by PSRC (Puget Sound Regional Council) does not include Olympia. That study provides a framework that can be expanded to include Olympia.</p> <p>Whether or not a new State-sponsored study is approved, the POCAC can build on the 2008 PSRC study by including the Port of Olympia.</p>
Scope of Work:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate possibilities – costs – and benefits for a modern Mosquito fleet between Olympia and Seattle.• Read and summarize available passenger ferry studies, especially the most recent.• Discuss with knowledgeable and interested groups.• Recommend options – timeline – process
Timeline: 6 months