



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Gil Cerise, Puget Sound Regional Council
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee
SUBJECT: PSRC Puget Sound Passenger-Only Ferry Study
DATE: July 17, 2019

SUMMARY:

At its meeting on July 17, the Committee will be provided a briefing on Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)'s planned approach and schedule to conduct a regional passenger-only ferry study, as directed by the Washington State Legislature. PSRC will solicit feedback from the Committee on Tacoma's interest in passenger-only ferry service.

BACKGROUND:

The Washington State Legislature appropriated \$350,000 to PSRC to study passenger-only ferry service throughout the Puget Sound region. The study includes a review of potential routes and terminals, ridership demand, costs, and use of alternative fuels for an area encompassing twelve counties bordering Puget Sound.

PSRC conducted a study of passenger-only ferry service in 2008, including an analysis of market opportunities, viable routes in the near to long-term, fleets and facilities, and roles and action steps for various agencies throughout the region. Funding provided by the Washington State Legislature will update this study to reflect current conditions and the possibility of additional passenger-only ferry routes. The legislation calls for the study to encompass the twelve counties bordering Puget Sound, as well as looking at potential passenger-only ferry routes on Lake Washington and Lake Union. The study must also provide recommendations to accelerate the electrification of the ferry fleet.

ISSUE:

PSRC is currently in process of amending its budget and obtaining contract authority for consultant services to assist in this study. The PSRC Executive Board is scheduled to take action at its July 25 meeting to begin this work. In the meantime, the Committee will be provided a briefing on PSRC's proposed overall approach and schedule for accomplishing this work by the January 31, 2021 deadline.

Given the broad geographic scope and the number of issues included in the passenger-only ferry study, PSRC is beginning work to identify and engage interested stakeholders.

For more information, please contact Gil Cerise at gcerise@psrc.org or (206) 971-3053.