



PRESS RELEASE

Two-Boat Service on Bremerton/Seattle Route Starts Feb. 24

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BREMERTON – Kitsap Transit plans to operate a regular two-boat schedule on the Bremerton/Seattle route starting on Monday, February 24, offering 24 sailings daily on weekdays – 10 in the morning, 14 in the afternoon – during peak commute hours.

Weekdays				
Vessel	Bremerton to Seattle		Seattle to Bremerton	
	Depart Bremerton Ferry Dock	Arrive Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Depart Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Arrive Bremerton Ferry Dock
1	AM 5:25	AM 5:55	AM 6:05	AM 6:35
2	6:05*	6:35	6:45*	7:15
1	6:45	7:15	7:25	7:55
2	7:25*	7:55	8:00*	8:30
1	8:05	8:35	8:40	9:10
1	PM 2:05*	PM 2:35	PM 2:40*	PM 3:10
1	3:15	3:45	3:55	4:25
2	3:45*	4:15	4:25*	4:55
1	4:30	5:00	5:10	5:40
2	5:00*	5:30	5:40*	6:10
1	5:45	6:15	6:25	6:55
1	7:05*	7:35	7:40*	8:10

*Walk-ups only - No reservations for these time slots.

The sailings operated by the second vessel will be filled on a walk-up basis and won't accept reservations, said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit. Reservations will continue to be accepted on those sailings on which they're used today, he said.

“We have used a reservation system to manage the supply-demand imbalance ever since we launched fast-ferry service in 2017,” Clauson said. “Now with the addition of more capacity to the route, we are giving customers the ability to use our service without having to book ahead.”

Kitsap Transit has the vessels and crew to support a two-boat schedule: In the summer of 2019 Kitsap Transit took delivery of two more Rich Passage-class vessels, the Reliance and Lady Swift. Unlike Rich Passage 1, these vessels use a wet exhaust system that measurably reduces the noise emitted as they travel on the water. All three vessels have capacity for 118 passengers.



M/V Reliance and Lady Swift at the Bremerton ferry dock.

The Bremerton Fast Ferry service carried 301,531 passengers in 2019, with an average of 25,128 passengers per month – up 7 percent from 2018, when it carried 281,860 passengers and an average of 23,488 passengers per month.

Monitoring the beaches

Last fall Kitsap Transit operated 140 one-way trips on the route for four weeks to simulate a summer two-boat schedule, while the Rich Passage research team collected data to measure the response of beaches to wake wash. Scientists are taking photos all along Rich Passage’s beaches, as well as measuring changes in beach volume along representative stretches in five regions – Pleasant Beach, Point White, Port Orchard, Point Glover and East Bremerton.

Analysis of that data indicates Rich Passage beaches showed no discernible response to the additional trips, said Jessica Côté, principal coastal engineer at Blue Coast Engineering.

“We look for evidence of systematic change,” she said. “And we don’t see any evidence to date. In other words, the changes in beach volume after Kitsap Fast Ferries began service are no different from the seasonal changes in beach volume we recorded before Kitsap Fast Ferries started operation.”

Typically sediment moves away from beaches during wet and stormy winters and builds back up during summers. Winds, precipitation and topography are major factors contributing to sediment movement, Côté said. Beaches on land masses jutting out are vulnerable to long-term sediment decline because of regular exposure to winds, she added.

In the mid-2000s Washington State Ferries (WSF) ended its fast-ferry program in response to a loss of tax revenue and litigation by Rich Passage property owners who alleged the wakes from the state’s 350-passenger vessels eroded their beaches and damaged bulkheads.

WSF turned over a federal research grant to Kitsap Transit, which in partnership with Côté and other scientists spent nearly a decade developing a model that could predict the wake wash from all kinds of vessels, from small power boats to an aircraft carrier. An international team used the model to design and build a high-speed, low-wake vessel – the Rich Passage 1 – that Kitsap Transit used in a test service for four months in 2012 before launching regular service on the Bremerton/Seattle route in July 2017.

Over the past two years, Kitsap Transit’s Bremerton Fast Ferry service has generally operated 80 one-way trips a week during the winter months and additional 20 trips on Saturdays during the summer.

Based on the evaluation of beach monitoring by Blue Coast Engineering, Kitsap Transit plans to operate 140 one-way trips a week, including Saturday sailings, this summer.

Kitsap Transit plans to publish the beach monitoring reports online once they are finalized by Blue Coast Engineering.

To dive deeper into Kitsap Transit’s fast-ferry ridership data, visit [KitsapTransit.com/FastFerryData](https://www.kitsaptransit.com/FastFerryData).

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

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