



PRESS RELEASE

Bremerton Fast Ferry to land at Pier 54 starting in January 2021

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Media Contact:

Sanjay Bhatt, Kitsap Transit Marketing & Public Information Director, 360-824-4926

BREMERTON, Wash. – The Bremerton Fast Ferry service will shift to Pier 54 starting sometime in January 2021 in response to King County’s likely expansion of Water Taxi service at its Pier 50 dock.

King County Marine Division has notified Kitsap Transit that it will likely be asked to expand the frequency of Water Taxi service between downtown Seattle and West Seattle. In March the City of Seattle closed the West Seattle High-Rise Bridge due to safety concerns and has given no definite date for reopening; the bridge historically carried more than 100,000 cars, trucks and buses daily.

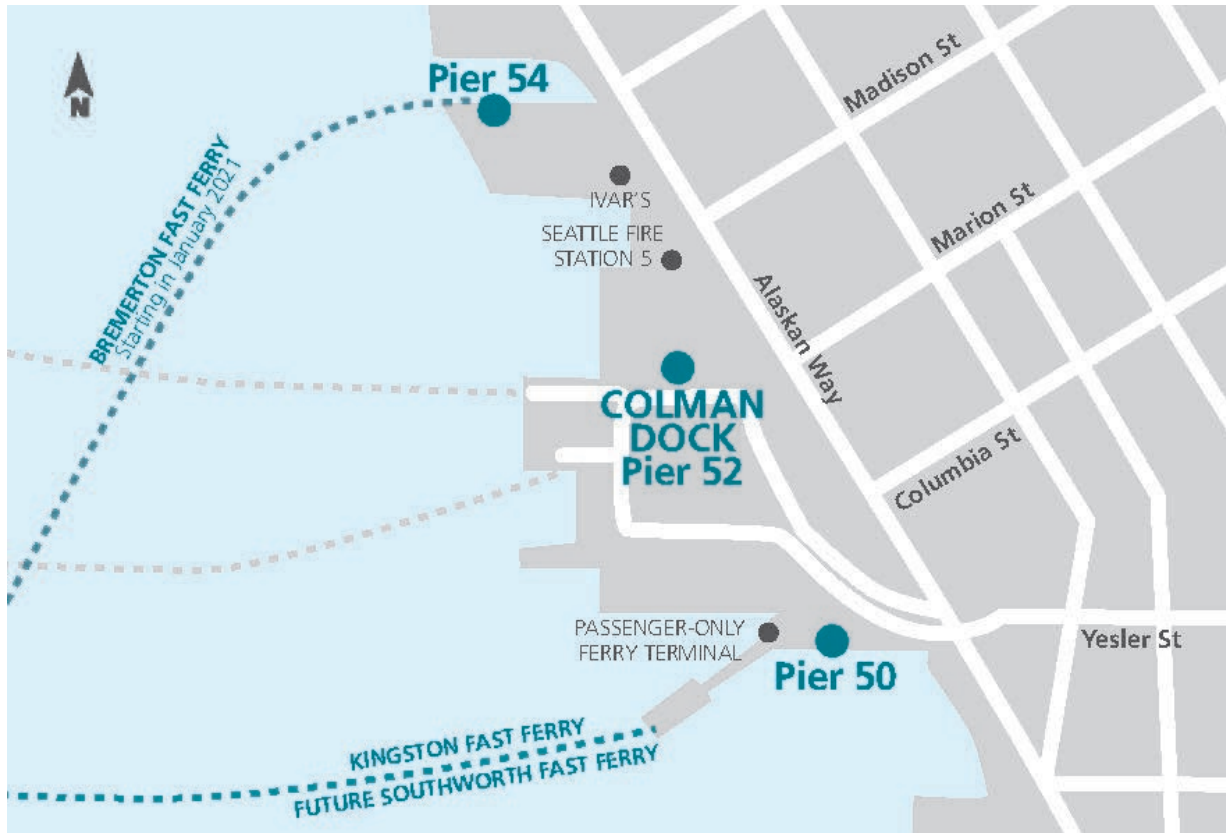
Under Kitsap Transit’s 2017 agreement with King County for use of the Pier 50 passenger-only ferry terminal, King County has first priority. The agreement did not include Kitsap Transit’s second vessel on its Bremerton route; the two-boat service began in February 2020 after scientists concluded it would have no discernible effect on shorelines along Rich Passage.

“If we don’t do this now, and King County starts a second set of sailings on the West Seattle route, it eliminates two-boat service on the Bremerton route,” said John Clauson, Kitsap Transit’s Executive Director.

Shifting the Bremerton Fast Ferry service to Pier 54 will not only preserve the two-boat sailing schedule, Clauson said, but also maintain on-time performance; Kitsap’s ferries can depart and arrive as needed.

Long-time customers of the Bremerton Fast Ferry service have experienced this before: Kitsap Transit shifted the service to [Pier 54 temporarily in August 2017](#) when a contractor for Washington State Ferries moved the passenger-only ferry facility to the north side of Colman Dock next to the fire station.

When the passenger-only ferry slip was moved back to the south side of Colman Dock in August 2019, both King County and Kitsap Transit suspended passenger-only ferry service for that week.



Congestion has gotten worse over time at the Pier 50 dock, which can hold only two ferries at the same time. King County operates Water Taxi service from West Seattle and Vashon Island. Kitsap Transit launched its Bremerton Fast Ferry service with one vessel in July 2017 and Kingston Fast Ferry service in November 2019. The two-boat Bremerton Fast Ferry service began in February 2020. Kitsap Transit plans to launch Southworth Fast Ferry service soon.

The slip at Pier 54 will not accommodate Kitsap Transit's larger fast ferry, *Finest*, that operates the Kingston route. As a result, the fast ferries that operate the Kingston-Seattle and Southworth-Seattle routes will dock at Pier 50.

The shortage of dock space on the Seattle Waterfront has been an ongoing concern amid growing demand for passenger-only ferry transportation. Last year the state Legislature directed the [Puget Sound Regional Council](#) to conduct a study across 12 counties to look at, among other things, routes and terminals for passenger-only ferries.

This fall Kitsap Transit began its own Seattle Fast-Ferry Terminal Siting Study to plan for the growing needs in its fast-ferry program. The study will evaluate potential locations along the downtown Seattle Waterfront starting north at Pier 70 down to Pier 46 to the south. The study will evaluate a minimum of six alternative sites, engage stakeholders for input and ultimately identify a preferred site next summer.

To learn more about the Terminal Siting Study, visit Kitsap Transit's Fast-Ferry Program webpage or [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

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Paki-tawagan ang numero 1-800-501-7433 normal na oras ng trabaho. Customer Service kawani ay kumonekta sa isang taga interpretor upang tulungan sagutin ang iyong katanungan.

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