



## NEWS RELEASE

### Kitsap Transit awarded national grant

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The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced this week it has selected Kitsap Transit's Annapolis Ferry Terminal project to receive just over \$4.5 million in a national grant competition. With the federal funds, Kitsap Transit plans to install a new ramp to provide equal access for elderly and disabled passengers as well as make improvements to the pier and float.

The terminal in Port Orchard is a critical component of the Annapolis-Bremerton foot ferry service. Built in 1981, the Annapolis Ferry Terminal is near the end of its useful life.

The ramp and float do not meet ADA requirements: At low tide, the ramp is too short and steep for passengers to climb and descend, and the float is too small for disabled passengers to safely access the ferry. Disabled passengers must call for Kitsap Transit's ACCESS bus service to pick them up from the Annapolis terminal and drive them to Bremerton instead of taking a five-minute ride on the foot ferry. In addition, the existing float and ramp have no weather protection for passengers waiting for the ferry, increasing the risk of slips and falls.

Kitsap Transit has an agreement with the Port of Bremerton to purchase the existing concrete pier for \$947,000. With the federal grant, Kitsap Transit plans to construct and anchor a larger float with pedestrian protection from the weather, and construct and install a new ramp that meets ADA requirements. These changes will improve the experience for all passengers and provide equal access for elderly and disabled passengers. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2017 and be completed by 2020.

Last fall, the FTA invited proposals for passenger ferry projects in urban areas through its Passenger Ferry Grant Program.

“Passenger ferries are a vital link in our nation’s transportation network, connecting people with jobs, education and other important opportunities,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx at the time. “These funds represent a core investment in the revitalization and improvement of public ferry systems – a transportation link that provides an important ladder of opportunity to hard-working families.”

This week, FTA announced the award of about \$59 million for passenger ferry projects and ferry operators nationwide:

“Waterways help to define and shape the economies of many of our cities and tribal communities, and in these places, ferry service is an essential form of transportation,” said FTA Senior Advisor Carolyn Flowers. “We must bring our existing ferry systems and facilities into a state of good repair, and support new ferry service where there’s a clear need.”

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### **About Kitsap Transit**

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The Bremerton-based transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders last year across a multi-modal system of routed buses, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and passenger-only ferry service. Learn more at [www.kitsaptransit.com](http://www.kitsaptransit.com).