



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Fast Ferries begins collecting fares on August 1

July 14, 2017

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Starting on August 1, Kitsap Transit will collect fares on its Bremerton-Seattle fast-ferry service. Since the service launched on July 10, Kitsap Transit has not collected fares, consistent with its fare policy. Through the end of this month, the public is encouraged to try the service.

When Kitsap Transit begins collecting fares on August 1, customers can pay with exact cash or tap an ORCA card pre-loaded with E-purse, Kitsap Fast Ferries monthly pass, or PugetPass. Customers also will be able to buy tickets later this summer from vending machines at the ferry docks in Bremerton and Seattle. Kitsap Transit does not accept Washington State Ferries' fare products.

ORCA Passes

ORCA monthly passes for Kitsap Transit's fast-ferry service go on sale tomorrow, July 15, for August sailings. Full fare for a monthly pass is \$168; reduced fare is \$84. Customers who expect to ride Kitsap Transit buses/local ferries and the fast ferry frequently may consider buying a combined bus/fast-ferry monthly pass for \$196; reduced fare is \$98.

There are several ways to buy ORCA passes, including:

- Visit www.orcard.com
- Visit a participating retail outlet
- Order by phone (1-888-988-6722)
- Visit Kitsap Transit's Customer-Service Office in the Bremerton Transportation Center

For details, go online to <http://www.kitsaptransit.com/fares/orca>

Customers who have an ORCA pass subsidized by their employer should check with their benefits administrator to see if their pass will cover the fare to ride on Kitsap Transit's fast ferry.

Passes for subsequent months will be available starting on the first of the month; for instance, passes for September sailings can be purchased as early as August 1.

Due to heavy demand for seats on the fast ferry, Kitsap Transit strongly encourages customers to [book reservations](#) for the month's sailings first before buying a monthly pass. Kitsap Transit generally does not provide refunds on its fare products.

Colman Dock Construction

This summer, Washington State Ferries commences [a five-year project](#) to demolish and rebuild the aging and seismically-vulnerable ferry terminal at Colman Dock. The project's first phase starts in early August with the temporary relocation of the existing passenger-only ferry terminal at Pier 50 to the north side of Colman Dock, next to the fire station. Washington State Ferries will build a new passenger-only facility at Pier 50 serving Kitsap Fast Ferries and King County Water Taxi that will re-open in fall 2018.

The process of moving the existing passenger-only facility to the north side of Colman Dock will affect passenger-only ferries for up to a week starting on Monday, August 7. Kitsap Transit is close to securing an alternate landing point in Seattle for that week.

Beach Monitoring and Service Expansion

Beach monitoring data will be collected along Rich Passage during August's lowest tide, which occurs on Aug. 21. If the data does not show changes in beach conditions beyond normal seasonal variability, Kitsap Transit plans to add 20 sailings starting on Sept. 1 – one more evening round-trip Monday through Thursday, four more round-trips on Friday evenings and two more round-trips on Saturdays.

Starting on Oct. 1, the fast-ferry service switches to a winter schedule of sailings on weekdays only during commute hours.

Bike rack

Passengers departing Bremerton can use a newly installed test bike rack at the head of the gangway to see if their bicycle fits in the fast-ferry's bike racks. Kitsap Transit is also coordinating with King County on the installation of a test bike rack near the dock for passengers departing Seattle.

Based on community feedback, Kitsap Transit is expediting plans to retrofit its fast ferry over the winter to accommodate a wider variety of bicycles and exploring the options with bike-rack designers.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.5 million riders in 2016 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.