

Kitsap Transit

Connecting Communities

PRESS RELEASE

Southworth Fast Ferry service begins March 29

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BREMERTON, Wash. – On Monday, March 29, passenger-only ferry service begins on the Southworth-Seattle route, marking the third route Kitsap Transit committed itself to launching and operating under a 2016 countywide ballot proposition.

The Southworth Fast Ferry's schedule offers four trips to Seattle in the morning and five trips to Southworth in the afternoon. The public can ride fare-free through the end of April. Kitsap Transit has suspended summer Saturday sailings on all fast-ferry routes until further notice because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With COVID-19 cases still high in Kitsap County, Kitsap Transit will forego a traditional grand-opening event and instead offer free rides on the M/V Enetai on Saturday, March 27. To reduce crowding at the Southworth Ferry Terminal, Kitsap Transit will limit capacity to 60 passengers per sailing. Details on the event, including the sailing schedule and how to request tickets, will be forthcoming.

“We are thrilled to launch fast-ferry service on our Southworth-Seattle route,” said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit. “We’re grateful to the voters of Kitsap County who gave us the go-ahead in 2016 to launch three fast-ferry routes to downtown Seattle. We are grateful to our partners at Washington State Ferries and King County Marine Division. Now here we are -- mission accomplished!”

Once fare collection begins in May, fares will be the same on the Southworth Fast Ferry as Kitsap Transit’s Bremerton and Kingston fast-ferry routes: Regular fare is \$2 to Seattle (eastbound) and \$10 to Kitsap (westbound). Riders can pay fare with cash, ORCA or Transit GO Ticket mobile app.

Kitsap Transit and Washington State Ferries (WSF) have been working out the details of jointly operating at Southworth Ferry Terminal, which has one slip and transfer span. WSF currently operates a two-boat schedule there and plans to resume a three-boat schedule on May 9. Kitsap Transit’s fast-ferry must be able to arrive, load and depart within a narrow window when the slip is not occupied by WSF’s ferries. The estimated travel time for the crossing will be approximately 26 minutes, but actual crossing times will vary based on dock availability in Seattle and Southworth.

When regular Southworth Fast Ferry service begins, Kitsap Transit will not have a dedicated spare vessel in the event a scheduled sailing is cancelled; riders are strongly encouraged to have a backup plan and subscribe to Kitsap Transit’s Southworth-Seattle rider alerts for notices of sailing cancellations or delays. Although Kitsap Transit recently purchased the M/V Solano as a spare, Solano is still in California and needs to be refurbished in dry dock. Meanwhile, Kitsap Transit’s second bow-loader, M/V Commander, is still under construction.

The Southworth terminal’s parking lot was restriped recently to accommodate a new bus staging area for drop-offs and pick-ups. On Monday, Kitsap Transit increased the number of Routed bus trips to Southworth Ferry Terminal in preparation for the start of Southworth Fast Ferry service; this includes a new Route 184-Harper Shuttle that operates during commute hours between the Harper Church Park & Ride and the ferry terminal.

For South Kitsap residents who don’t live near a Routed bus stop, Kitsap Transit also is launching on March 29 a demand-responsive service similar to one operating in the Kingston area. The Southworth Ride Fast Ferry Commuter shared-ride service will transport customers from their neighborhood to the Southworth Ferry Terminal on a reservations basis. To learn whether this service is available in your area and register in advance, call 1-844-475-7433 or visit KitsapTransit.com.

Southworth Fast Ferry - Weekdays

Southworth to Seattle (Eastbound)		Seattle to Southworth (Westbound)	
Depart Southworth Dock	Arrive Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Depart Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Arrive Southworth Dock
5:10	5:36	5:45	6:11
6:20	6:46	6:55	7:26
7:35	8:01	8:10	8:36
8:45	9:11	PM 2:55	PM 3:21
PM 3:30	PM 3:56	4:05	4:31
4:40	5:06	5:15	5:41
5:45	6:06	6:15	6:41
6:45	7:11	7:15	7:41

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 2019 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.

Nagsasalita ka ba ng Tagalog?

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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