PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Fast Ferries to hold July 5 grand opening with Gov. Jay Inslee, U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer to mark launch of Bremerton-Seattle service

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit will hold a July 5 grand-opening ceremony on the Bremerton Boardwalk to mark the launch of fast-ferry service to Seattle, with remarks from Gov. Jay Inslee and U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer.

The ceremony, which starts at 9 AM and will conclude at approximately 9:45 AM, is free and open to the public. Following the ceremony, elected officials, agency representatives and other invited guests will experience a live boarding of the 118-seat fast ferry, the Rich Passage 1, and learn about the service during a 20-minute cruise.

Kitsap Transit has hired captains and deckhands to operate the fast-ferry service, published a final schedule and answers to frequently asked questions, and readied the fast ferry for the launch of service on July 10. Consistent with its fare policy, the agency will not collect fares on the new service in July.

Kitsap Transit today announces several enhancements to support fast-ferry service:

- **Online reservation system:** A new reservation system will be accessible on KitsapTransit.com for passengers to book seats on peak-hour sailings operated Monday through Friday. The public can access the system on June 26. Up to 88 of the 118 seats can be reserved; the remaining 30 seats will be filled on a walk-up basis.

  While users can book a reservation without creating an account, frequent users will want to establish an account to save time: Users must have an account with one of four free online services: Google (i.e. Gmail), Facebook, Microsoft (i.e. Hotmail), or Twitter. Riders who do not have access to the Internet may also contact Customer Service to book a trip or queue in the walk-up line.

- **A new logo:** Designed in-house, the logo extends the agency's colors and graphic elements to the new service. The logo also adds a tagline, "Sprint across the Sound," that evokes the service's essence of being a foot ferry that transports riders quickly across the Puget Sound.

- **Expanded bus service to ferry terminal:** Effective July 3, Kitsap Transit is introducing two new routes and extending service hours on a third route to encourage fast-ferry passengers to ride a bus to the Bremerton ferry terminal and not add to parking congestion in downtown Bremerton. The agency's ferry fund will cover the cost of these additional bus service-hours.

The new #1 North Kitsap Fast Ferry Express will serve North Viking Transit Center in Poulsbo, Silverdale Transit Center, Kitsap Way & Marine Drive, and Gateway Park & Ride in West Bremerton. The #2 Central Kitsap Fast Ferry Express will serve Ridgetop Boulevard, Crossroads Park & Ride, McWilliams Park & Ride, and the East Bremerton Transit Center. The new bus routes will be free for the first month.

The #8 Bethel will start earlier and end later for South Kitsap to get to the Port Orchard local foot ferry and connect with the Bremerton fast ferry: The first trip will depart Fred Meyer at 4:42 AM, and the last trip will depart Port Orchard ferry dock at 7:30 PM.

- **ORCA passes:** Kitsap Transit anticipates ORCA passes for August sailings on the fast ferry will become available on July 15. If pass availability is delayed, Kitsap Transit will issue an update through its website and to those who have subscribed to its Kitsap Fast Ferries e-mail list.

- **August schedule:** Kitsap Transit will provide updates later on its August sailing schedule. In early August, construction work at Pier 50 in Seattle will impact Kitsap Transit's fast-ferry service.

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.

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