

Kitsap Transit

Connecting Communities

For Immediate Release

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Kingston Fast Ferry Service Debuts

Kingston fast ferry and connecting buses are fare-free the rest of 2018

BREMERTON—Kitsap Transit’s fast-ferry commuter service between Kingston and downtown Seattle and connecting bus services launched on Monday.

[Finest](#), the main vessel operating the Kingston-Seattle route, carried 265 riders over the three morning roundtrips and 272 riders over the three afternoon roundtrips. The 7:05 AM from Kingston and 5:05 PM from Seattle were the most popular. The full breakdown of passengers on each sailing is listed on page 2.



Despite the heavy rain, customers boarded buses (#307 from Poulsbo, #302 from Suquamish, and Kingston Ride Fast Ferry Commuter) to get to Kingston Ferry Terminal and were greeted with hot coffee donated by Aviator Coffee and Kitsap Transit-branded swag, including umbrellas, waterproof backpack covers, flashlights and coffee tumblers. An enclosed, temperature-controlled waiting terminal gave passengers relief from the elements as they prepared to board the fast ferry in Kingston (see photo).

Kingston resident Louisa Wales, who works in downtown Seattle, was aboard the 8:45 AM sailing.

“Before the fast ferry, I was driving to a park & ride, taking a bus to Bainbridge Island, and then taking the ferry (to Seattle),” Wales said. “Now I ride my bike to the fast ferry and go straight into Seattle. It’s taken my commute from approximately five hours a day to half that,” she said.

What to do with an extra two-and-a-half hours a day? “Hang out with my kids!” Wales said.

Capt. Becca Johnston piloted *Finest* on Monday’s morning sailings. Johnston has been a licensed captain for 20 years and is originally from Bainbridge Island. Before joining Kitsap Transit, Johnston piloted



research vessels in the Pacific Ocean for various projects, including a Disney nature film on whales. Johnston saw the launch of the new service as a chance to spend more time with her family.

“I’m really excited to get this run in service. I think it’s going to be a huge benefit for the community,” Johnston said.

Capt. Tom Healy, who piloted *Finest* on Monday’s afternoon sailings, has been a licensed captain for 33 years and was one of the captains for Aqua Express, a private fast-ferry service that operated the Kingston-Seattle route in 2005. That service shut down after about 10 months, pinched by high fuel costs and low ridership. Healy was excited when he heard Kitsap Transit would launch its own Kingston Fast Ferry service.

“I think helping with community travel and getting people to downtown Seattle as well as giving people in Seattle an opportunity to come out to the Kitsap Peninsula and visit Kingston will hopefully be a boost to the economy in North Kitsap,” Healy said.

Departed	Sailing	Passengers
Kingston	5:25 AM	70
Seattle	6:15 AM	2
Kingston	7:05 AM	131
Seattle	7:55 AM	14
Kingston	8:45 AM	45
Seattle	9:35 AM	3
Kingston	2:35 PM	15
Seattle	3:25 PM	81
Kingston	4:15 PM	5
Seattle	5:05 PM	135
Kingston	5:55 PM	3
Seattle	6:45 PM	33

For sailing schedule and links to connecting bus services, please visit kitsaptransit.com/kingston



About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.59 million riders in 2017 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.