



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Transit awarded \$13.5 million Passenger Ferry grant

Grant for buying new fast ferry to operate Kingston/Seattle route

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit (KT) will receive \$13.5 million in federal funding to buy a new fast ferry that would replace an older vessel operating the Kingston/Seattle route, improving the Kingston Fast Ferry service’s reliability.

The federal funding comes from the Federal Transit Administration’s Passenger Ferry Grant program and covers nearly 80 percent of the project’s \$17.5 million cost. Kitsap Transit is contributing about \$4 million in local dollars to the project.

“This funding allows us to buy a new boat to operate a route that has been running with a backup vessel – M/V Finest – that is older and has had to go out of service repeatedly for multiple issues,” said Executive Director John Clauson. “In late August we had to suspend sailings on the route for five days because we didn’t have a working spare vessel. This funding will give us the opportunity to reduce downtime and enhance service reliability.”

The 349-passenger Finest was built in 1996 and [refurbished by Kitsap Transit in 2018](#). In recent years, required maintenance has exponentially increased. Kitsap Transit completed a survey of the vessel that found the hull and engines are at or near the end of their useful life. To extend the life of the Finest would cost between \$14 million and \$17 million.

A new ferry would cost about \$17 million, incorporate cleaner diesel engines, and could resemble Kitsap Transit’s bow-loading vessels M/V Enetai and Commander, each of which has capacity for 250 passengers.

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About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.84 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.