

Briefing on Puget Sound Region Passenger-Only Ferry Study



Puget Sound Regional Council

The Mosquito Fleet of Puget Sound

Puget Sound's Mosquito Fleet by the numbers in the year 1900

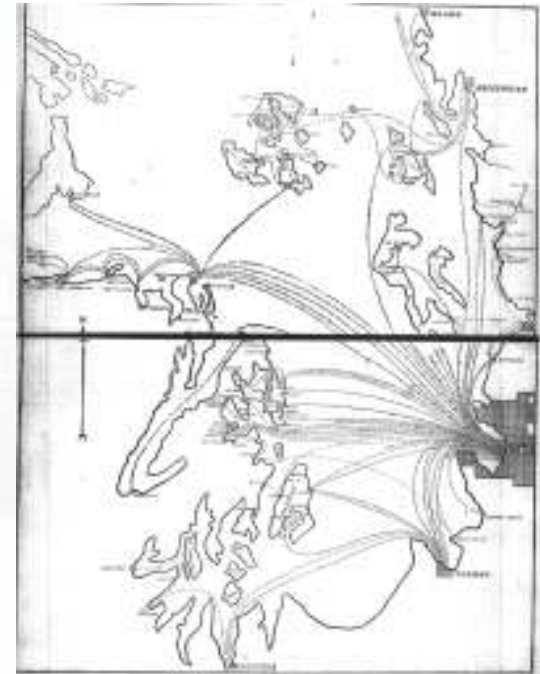
Population of Seattle: 80,671

Population of Washington State: 518,103

1,000,000 passengers carried and 900,000 tons of freight handled.

225 "steamers" estimated to be in the Mosquito Fleet. About 160 of them owned and operated from Seattle.

25 routes throughout Puget Sound (19 of them based in Seattle), with 195 ports of call.



Mosquito Fleet Decline

1929

The ferry industry consolidates into two companies: Black Ball and Kitsap County Transportation Company.

1930's and 1940's

The Great Depression combined with new competition from rail and roads puts financial pressure on private ferry industry.

1951

The last private ferry company, Black Ball, sells its assets to Washington Toll Bridge Authority, now known as Washington State Ferries.



Washington State's Passenger-Only Ferries

1986

WSF procures first passenger-only ferry.

1999

Rich Passage property owners sue WSF for wake damage.

2000

Joint legislative task force concludes WSF should not expand service to new communities.

2002

Washington State settles Rich Passage suit for \$4.5 million.

2006

SB 6787, State Legislature directs WSF to exit the POF business.



Locals Fill Passenger-Only Ferry Void

2007

King County Ferry District Formed; West Seattle-Downtown Water Taxi launched.

2008

Kitsap Transit purchased Port Orchard-Annapolis-Bremerton Foot Ferry service from private company; PSRC Passenger-Only Ferry study completed.

2009

King County takes over Vashon-Downtown Seattle route from WSF.

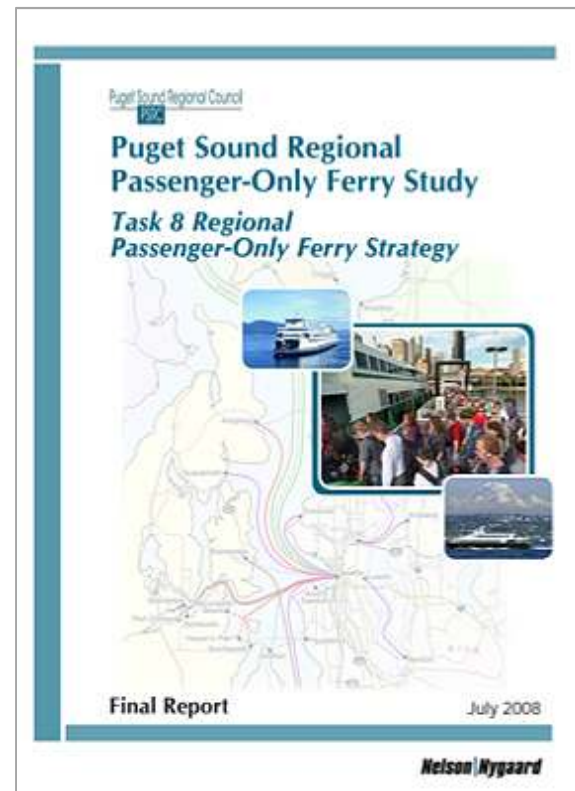
2016

Kitsap Transit voters approve “Fast Ferry” 3/10% sales tax proposal.



2008 PSRC Passenger-Only Ferry Study

- Evaluated market opportunities for passenger-only ferries.
- Identified viability of routes—both existing and potential.
- Implementation considerations including vessel and facilities recommendations.
- Regional roles and action steps.
- Study led to the system in service today.



Puget Sound Passenger-Only Ferry Routes

Kitsap Transit

Bremerton – Port Orchard (12 mins)
Bremerton – Annapolis (5 mins)
Bremerton – Seattle (30 mins)
Kingston – Seattle (39 mins)
Southworth – Seattle (23 mins in 2020)

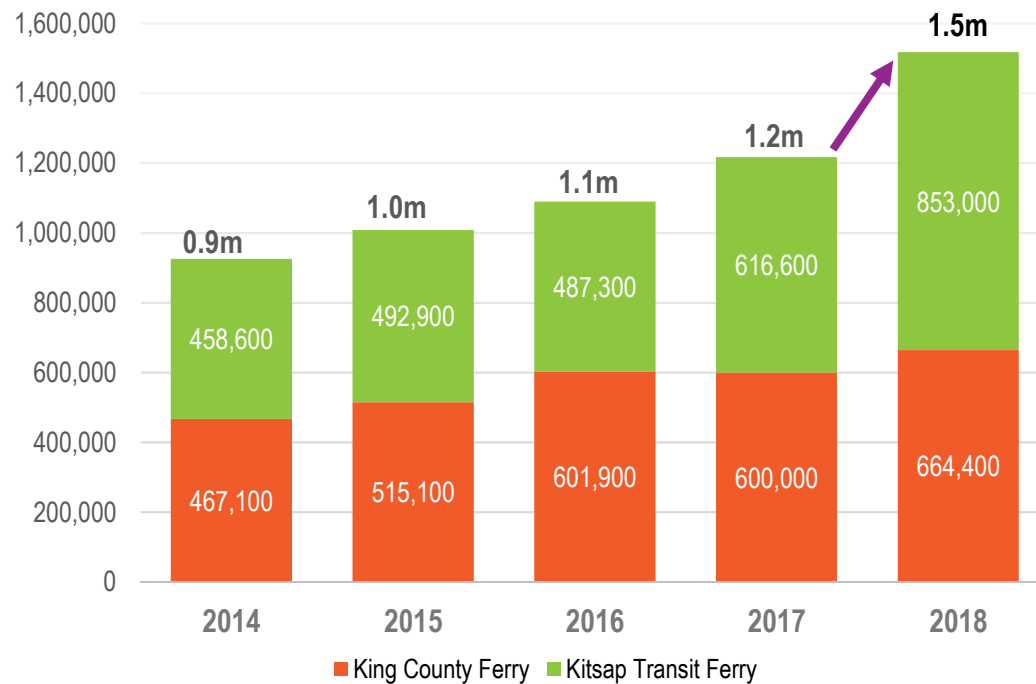
King County

Vashon – Seattle (22 mins)
West Seattle – Seattle (10-15 mins)



Puget Sound Passenger-Only Ferry Ridership

5-Year POF Ridership, 2014-2018

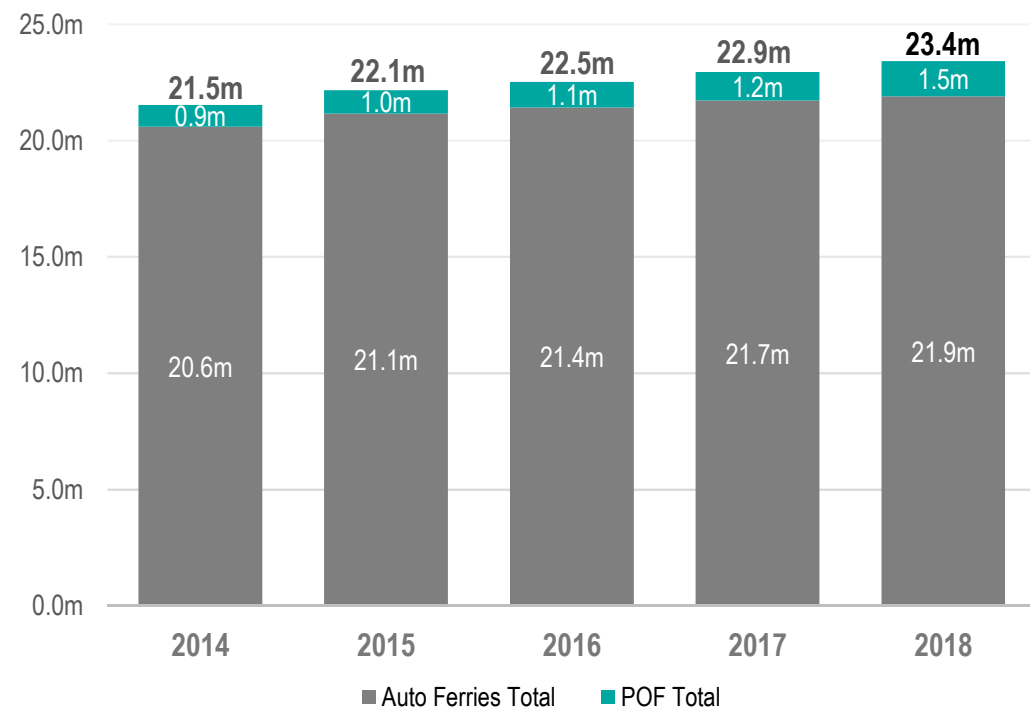


Note: Bremerton-Seattle Fast Ferry launched in July, 2017 and Kingston-Seattle Fast Ferry in November, 2018.

Ridership is Growing for All Ferries

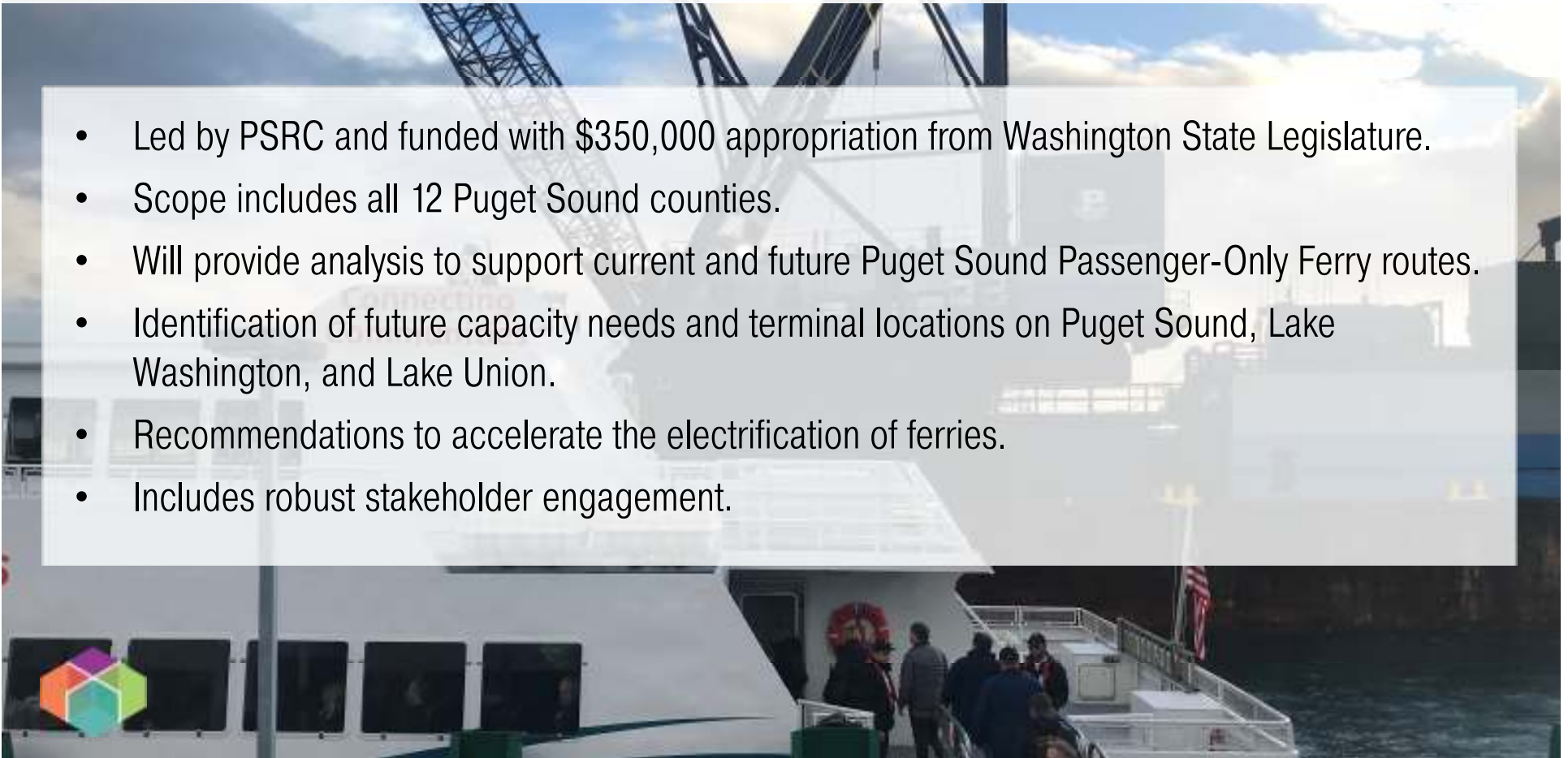


5-Year POF vs. Auto Ferries Ridership, 2014-2018



2019 Puget Sound Passenger-Only Ferry Study

- Led by PSRC and funded with \$350,000 appropriation from Washington State Legislature.
- Scope includes all 12 Puget Sound counties.
- Will provide analysis to support current and future Puget Sound Passenger-Only Ferry routes.
- Identification of future capacity needs and terminal locations on Puget Sound, Lake Washington, and Lake Union.
- Recommendations to accelerate the electrification of ferries.
- Includes robust stakeholder engagement.



Overall Approach to Route Assessment

- Initial routes and terminal locations to study determined from outreach
- Evaluation criteria called out in legislation, includes:
 - Market potential and ridership
 - Travel time competitiveness with other modes
 - Terminal location and capacity
 - Capital and operating needs
 - Environmental factors
 - Financial factors
- Stakeholder feedback will inform any additional evaluation criteria/methods and review of route analyses



Overall Approach and Schedule

Summer – Winter 2019

July – September 2019

- Initial Stakeholder Engagement
- July: PSRC Operations Committee and Executive Board Action
- August: RFP for Consultant
- September: Consultant Selection

October – December 2019

- Assessment of Existing Conditions
- Initial POF Route and Terminal Identification
- Stakeholder Outreach
- December: TPB Check-in

Winter – Fall 2020

January – March 2020

- Preliminary Route Assessment and Screening

April 2020

- Stakeholder Outreach

May – September 2020

- Final Route Assessment

October 2020

- Stakeholder Outreach

Fall 2020 – Winter 2021

November – December 2020

- Final Report Development
- Report to Transportation Policy Board

January 2021

- Submit Report/ Present to Washington State Legislature



Thank you.

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Puget Sound Regional Council