

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Jon Hutchings  
Director



**PUBLIC WORKS FERRY DIVISION**

322 N Commercial , Suite 210  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Phone # (360) 778-6200  
Fax # (360) 778-6201

## Press Release

---

**Contact: Rob Ney**  
**Phone: (360) 778-6200**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 1, 2017**

### Reminder of Annual Ferry Dry Dock Activities

Dry dock will begin on Thursday, September 7, 2017. The Whatcom Chief is due to return to its regular schedule on Monday, September 25, 2017. As always, the return date is tentative, and dependent on the scale of repairs and work required both in the shipyard and at the docks. Further confirmation of this return to service date will occur as dry dock progresses.

**The Whatcom Chief's last crossing for vehicles prior to dry dock will be the 9:00 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. runs on Wednesday, September 6, 2017.**

On Wednesday, September 6, 2017, the Whatcom Chief will operate as a **vehicle ferry** beginning with the first scheduled run of 5:40 a.m. and will continue to run as a **vehicle ferry** until it makes its last run. The last run from Lummi Island will be at 9:10 p.m. The last run from Gooseberry Point will be at 9:00 p.m. The ferry service will then be discontinued while modifications are made to the docks and the floats are set for the contracted passenger-only ferry. The Whatcom Chief will then depart to the shipyard. We anticipate the first run with the contracted passenger-only ferry to be approximately at 6:00 a.m. from Lummi Island on Thursday, September 7, 2017.

The following transportation will be provided during dry dock:

- **Foot Passenger-Only Ferry Service** transportation will be provided between Lummi Island and Gooseberry Point. Ferry vehicle parking will continue to be available in the existing designated areas

and will be posted at Gooseberry Point and on the website indicated below. Please comply by parking in designated/posted areas only.

**VEHICLES PARKED IN UNDESIGNATED AREAS WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- **Passenger Shuttle Van Service on Lummi Island** will be provided while the Whatcom Chief Ferry is in dry dock. The first day of service will be Thursday, September 7, 2017. **The maximum number of passengers allowed in the Shuttle Van at any one time is 14.**
  - The shuttle van must meet a very tight schedule. Please be at the shuttle van stop **EARLY** to be sure of a ride.

**NO PETS OR BICYCLES ALLOWED IN THE PASSENGER SHUTTLE VAN. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**DRY DOCK PARKING MODIFICATIONS:**

- The additional parking provided at Gooseberry Point will conflict with our current travel lanes on and off the ferry. To accommodate this extra parking, **we will be closing the center ferry queuing lane and opening the supplemental parking area at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 5, 2017.**
- We will implement the same traffic flow patterns when the Whatcom Chief returns from dry dock and until such time as all of the supplemental parking areas are cleared.

Copies of the Passenger-Only Ferry Schedule, and the Lummi Island Passenger Shuttle Van Schedules, including the pickup route, are available on the Whatcom County website <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/382/Ferry>. The dry dock parking plan will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Public Works Administration at (360) 778-6200. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the annual dry dock.

###