

November 21, 2022

Notice to Lummi Island Community and Friends: Updates and Information Resources for 2023 Ferry Fare Proposal

With recent, rapid developments about fare increases and future service disruption, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) requested more detail and official information resources for the community. Here is the first effort to come from the collaboration with Whatcom County Public Works:

Whatcom County Public Works' timeline for information regarding the proposed ferry fare increase in 2023. The projected dates are subject to revision.

December 1, 2022: Whatcom County Public Works will publish a webpage on the [Lummi Island Ferry website](https://www.whatcomcounty.us/ferry) at <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/ferry> discussing the 2023 ferry fare proposal. This webpage will include:

- background information on ferry operations and ridership
- a timeline of past fare increases
- Whatcom County Ordinances outlining farebox requirements
- associated budget documents and projections
- a 'frequently asked questions' section.

January 10, 2023: The ferry fare proposal will *tentatively* be introduced at the Whatcom County Council meeting. Check the meeting agenda to confirm.

- The agenda is usually on the website by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the County Council meeting (in this case, Wednesday, January 4).
- Council meeting agendas are published in the Legislative Information Center here: <https://whatcom.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- Sign up to receive County Council meeting agendas in your inbox here: <https://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/list.aspx>
- NOTE: The fare proposal would not be up for public hearing (i.e. live public comment session) until the following meeting.

January 24, 2023: The ferry fare proposal will *tentatively* be scheduled for public hearing at the Whatcom County Council meeting. Check the meeting agenda to confirm. This is a chance for any citizen to voice their opinion on the proposal.

- For information on how to participate in a Whatcom County Council meeting public hearing, click here: <https://whatcomcounty.us/1706/Speak-to-the-Council-at-Meetings>
- There is a virtual option for most Whatcom County Council meetings. For additional information on how to participate virtually, click here: <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3415/Participate-in-Virtual-Council-Meetings>
- Before or during the hearing, you may also submit written testimony to the County Council. You may email the Councilmembers individually, or submit your written testimony here: council@co.whatcom.wa.us

Spring 2023: New ferry fares go into effect. *Subject to Council approval.