

ESHB 2474 - S AMD 868 TO S AMD (S-5265.1)
By Senators Spanel, Horn and Haugen

ADOPTED 3/11/04

1 On page 50, after line 25, insert the following,

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 506.** A new section is added to 2003 c 360
3 (uncodified) to read as follows:

4 Washington state ferries are more than a symbol of the state's
5 natural beauty and economic vitality. They also are a critical
6 component of our state's transportation system, serving as an extension
7 of our land-based highways and transit systems, connecting Washington's
8 people, jobs, and communities.

9 The investments made in the 2003 transportation funding package
10 provide the foundation for a marine transportation system that
11 coordinates Washington's cross-Sound marine transportation and our
12 land-based transportation alternatives to create a fully integrated
13 marine/land multimodal transportation system. Achieving this will
14 require the development of a long-range vision and supporting strategy
15 that will provide the policy guidance to define and maximize efficient
16 delivery of quality marine transportation service to the traveling
17 public.

18 (1) To accomplish this, the Washington state department of
19 transportation shall develop a vision statement and 10-year strategy
20 for the future development of Washington's multimodal water-based
21 transportation system.

22 (a) This strategy shall recommend the most appropriate means of
23 moving foot passengers across central Puget Sound, using Washington
24 state ferries, alternative operators, or a combination of both, in the
25 immediate future and over the longer term:

26 (i) Giving priority to those routes where passenger service likely
27 will be provided at least for the near term on passenger-only vessels,
28 such as Vashon-Seattle, Kingston-Seattle, Southworth-Seattle, and
29 Clinton-Seattle. Consideration shall be given to existing public-
30 private partnership opportunities;

1 (ii) Considering how service patterns will best fit in the near and
2 long term with development goals and opportunities of Colman Dock as a
3 major hub for integrating water transportation with other
4 transportation modes in downtown Seattle;

5 (iii) Evaluating how operating economies and reasonable fare box
6 recoveries can be established by scheduling A.M. and P.M. services to
7 match commuter demand and to fit within existing collective bargaining
8 agreements as interpreted and applied to facilitate "split shift"
9 transit-like operations; and

10 (iv) Providing a vessel plan that most efficiently uses existing
11 state ferry assets and provides for their likely repair and
12 rehabilitation needs, while preserving flexibility to structure
13 services around vessel availability that could rely on purchase or
14 lease of additional vessels, as may suitably be required.

15 The strategy shall also consider the availability of partnering in
16 operations, vessel deployment, or funding arrangements with other
17 public transportation entities and with the private sector. The study
18 shall also recommend the most effective use of federal funding
19 opportunities for the overall support of integrated water
20 transportation services on the central Puget Sound.

21 (b) Other components of the strategy shall include but not be
22 limited to:

23 (i) A long-term plan for the ferry system's existing terminals,
24 considering the revenue generation opportunities and potential for
25 partnering with the private sector where appropriate. This should
26 include a plan for generating other revenues as identified in the 2003
27 5-5-5 plan; and

28 (ii) A more equitable fare structure for the San Juan Islands,
29 particularly for island residents.

30 (2) The department shall consult with key public and private sector
31 stakeholders including business, labor, environmental community
32 representatives, local governments, and transit agencies as part of the
33 development of the vision statement and supporting strategy.

34 The long-range strategy should also recommend a short-range
35 implementation plan for the 2005-07 biennium. The department shall
36 provide its recommendations to the transportation committees of the
37 legislature by December 15, 2004."

1 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal
2 references accordingly.

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EFFECT: WSDOT must develop a vision statement and 10-year strategy for WSF.