



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Budget and Fiscal Management Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	9	<b>Name:</b>	Leah Krekel-Zoppi
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2016-0481	<b>Date:</b>	October 25-27, 2016

**SUBJECT**

An ordinance increasing passenger ferry fares in 2018.

**SUMMARY**

This proposal would increase adult prepaid passenger ferry fares by 50 cents, and increase all other fare categories in proportion to the adult prepaid fare. It would take effect in March 2018. The proposal is consistent with passenger ferry fare policies established in county code and with historic practices. This action is expected to raise \$198,142 in 2017-2018.

**BACKGROUND**

King County assumed governance of the King County Ferry District on November 20, 2014 through enactment of Ordinance 17935. At that time, the Council also amended King County Code (K.C.C.) to assume the fare policies of the King County Ferry District, adopt passenger ferry fares, and adopt a passenger ferry fare increase which took effect in March 2016.

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0481 would increase adult prepaid fares by 50 cents, and increase all other fare categories in proportion to the adult prepaid fare and rounded to the nearest 25 cent increment, as established in county code. The table below shows the proposed changes for each route and fare category. These proposed changes would take effect March 1, 2018.

<b>One-way Water Taxi Fares</b>	<b>West Seattle current</b>	<b>West Seattle proposed</b>	<b>Vashon Island current</b>	<b>Vashon Island proposed</b>
<b>Cash fare</b>	\$5.25	\$5.75	\$6.25	\$6.75
<b>Regular prepaid fare</b>	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.75
<b>Youth prepaid fare</b>	\$3.50	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.50
<b>Senior and persons with disabilities fare</b>	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00
<b>Low-income fare</b>	\$3.50	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.50

**ANALYSIS**

## **Fiscal Impact**

The fare proposal is projected to increase revenue for the Marine Division by \$198,142 in 2017-2018. This represents 1.1 percent of the Division's estimated 2017-2018 operating revenue of \$17,886,718.

## **Consistency with Fare Policy**

According to the Executive, the King County Ferry District established a fare policy of increasing passenger base fares by 50 cents every other year in even years. As the last passenger ferry fare increase took effect in 2016, this proposal would continue that practice.

The proposed fare increase is consistent with the fare policies established in K.C.C. 4A.700.820. The code states that all fares should be rounded up to the nearest whole 25 cent increment and establishes the regular prepaid fare as the base rate. Other fare categories are established as the following percentages of the base fare:

- Cash fare = 115 percent of the base fare
- Youth prepaid fare = 75 percent of the base fare
- Senior and persons with disabilities fare = 50 percent of the base fare<sup>1</sup>
- Low-income fare = 75 percent of the base fare

While the proposed fare policy is consistent with county and historic practices, it contains an inconsistency for the increase to youth and low-income fares between West Seattle and Vashon Island fares. Fares for the West Seattle route would increase by 25 cents for youth and low-income riders, while these same fare categories would increase by 50 cents for the Vashon Island route. This is due to the 25 cent rounding requirement in county code and is expected to even out over time with future fare increases. For example, between 2014 and 2016, fares for these categories increased by 50 cents for West Seattle and 25 cents for Vashon Island, which, combined with the current proposal, would result in a 75 cent increase for both routes over four years.

## **AMENDMENT**

Amendment 1 is a technical amendment requested by the Executive based on feedback from the Code Reviser.

Title Amendment 1 is a technical amendment reflecting additional feedback from the Code Reviser.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2016-0481 (and its attachments)
2. Amendment 1
3. Title Amendment T1
4. Fiscal Note

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<sup>1</sup> Established by federal policy.

**INVITED**

1. Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
2. Paul Brodeur, Director, Marine Division