



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Transit Awarded \$7.7 million Federal Grant for Zero-Emission Passenger Ferry

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit has been awarded a grant for \$7.7 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to design and construct an all-electric foot ferry and install shoreside charging infrastructure at the Bremerton ferry terminal.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's [Passenger Ferry Grant Program](#) will support the design and construction of a battery-electric foot ferry modeled after Kitsap Transit's M/V Waterman, a hybrid-electric foot ferry that operates the Port Orchard-Bremerton route.

"We are extremely thankful for this grant and for the FTA's support of Kitsap Transit's local ferry system," said Kitsap Transit Executive Director John Clauson. "I'm also grateful for the support our grant application received from U.S Representative Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, who have pushed for investments in clean transportation infrastructure."

"Having the federal government step up and assist Kitsap Transit in its efforts to provide ferry service to folks in our region has been a priority for me – and for our community," said Rep. Kilmer. "This is big news because it will help Kitsap Transit reduce emissions, improve existing services, and provide greater access in getting people where they need to go. And it's also big news for local taxpayers and ferry passengers because the costs of vessel replacement won't be borne just by folks in our neck of the woods. These federal investments are winners for our planet and for our economy!"

On Feb. 8, 2022, Washington's legislative leaders introduced a [\\$16 billion transportation package](#) that would provide Kitsap Transit with \$6.5 million to support the zero-emission ferry project.

"This FTA grant, coupled with funding from the state's historic transportation package, will help us build and support a sustainable, environmentally friendly fleet," Clauson said. "These two funding sources will support the construction of an all-electric local ferry and install the infrastructure necessary to charge the vessel."

In 2019, Kitsap Transit took delivery of the [M/V Waterman](#), the first hybrid-diesel ferry to operate commercial service in the Puget Sound. The Waterman uses a generator to charge a battery bank and operates on battery power while idling and loading passengers, reducing carbon-dioxide emissions and increasing the efficiency of its diesel engine.

The M/V Waterman was designed by Glosten and built by All American Marine. The new ferry will be based on the Waterman's design, with minimal modifications to the hull and significant design changes to the propulsion system.

The grant will cover 80% of the cost for the design and construction of the vessel. Kitsap Transit will provide a required 20% local match.

The Passenger Ferry Grant Program Funds capital projects that help eligible sponsors support existing passenger ferry service, establish new ferry service, and upgrade ferry boats, terminals, and related facilities and equipment. The grants also help transit agencies and ferry companies offset the considerable cost of introducing new, climate-friendly propulsion technologies.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

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