



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Transit Statement on State Transportation Package

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Washington’s legislative leaders introduced a transportation package today that would broadly boost the state’s commitment to public transportation, including Kitsap Transit.

The package would provide Kitsap Transit with just over \$3.5 million annually for operations and \$6.5 million to support the design and construction of an all-electric sistership to Kitsap Transit’s M/V Waterman, a hybrid-electric foot ferry that operates the Port Orchard-Bremerton route. The package also includes significant dollars in competitive grants for electric buses and charging infrastructure.

“This is a historic vote of confidence by our state’s legislative leaders in our public transportation sector and the important contribution we make to climate action, economic development and social equity,” said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit.

“I want to commend House Transportation Committee Chair Jake Fey and Senate Transportation Committee Chair Marko Liias for their bold leadership and our local legislative delegation for their unwavering support,” Clauson said.

The Kitsap Transit Board has committed to adding an all-electric foot ferry to the agency’s fleet and shoreside charging infrastructure; the ferry would be a sistership to Kitsap Transit’s M/V Waterman, the first hybrid-electric ferry to operate commercial passenger service on the Puget Sound.

“I’m grateful to state Sen. Emily Randall and Rep. Tarra Simmons for sponsoring funding for our all-electric foot ferry,” Clauson said.

In addition to the investments in transit, the proposed transportation package includes \$75 million in funding for the state Department of Transportation to address longstanding public safety, traffic congestion and environmental issues in the Gorst highway corridor. The Gorst Coalition, of which Kitsap Transit is a member, has been working to increase awareness of the issues over the past year.

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.

Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

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