

**Meeting Details:**

FAC:	Southern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	July 2, 2009
Location:	Cedars Inn, 895 Gibsons Way, Gibsons, BC
Time:	10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Attendees:**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>BC Ferries:</b>
Jakob Knaus, Chair	Rob Clarke – Chief Financial Officer
Barry Cavens	Captain Dale Phipps – Marine Superintendent
LeeAnn Johnson	Mark Stefanson – Vice President, Public Affairs
Alice Lutes	Jason Bowman – Regional Director, Terminal Operations
David Dick	Grant Bierlmeier – Director, Pricing & Revenue Performance
	Steve Anderson, Manager, Scheduling & Fleet Deployment
	Captain Daniel Kuiper – Senior Master, Queen of Surrey
	Sarah Cotton – Manager, Stakeholder Relations
<b>Absent:</b> Tom Paul Pat Barber	
<b>Guests:</b> Mayor Barry Janyk Joyce Clegg, Gambier - Keats FAC Chair Shannon Bond, Coast Reporter Kim Tournat - Representative from Nicholas Simons Office 7 Members of the Public	

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Round table introductions were completed.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved with the addition of confirmation of Chair and recent delays on Route 3.
- 4. Confirmation of Chair:** Jakob Knaus was confirmed as Chair.
- 5. Presentations:**
  - a. Marine Superintendent Operations Report**  
Captain Dale Phipps, Marine Superintendent, presented the Marine Operations report with information on safety and security, traffic, on time performance, master planning and vessels.

David Dick noted that the Queen of Surrey has been an hour late since June 15 so it appears that seasonal summer traffic increases before the BC Ferries' Summer schedule begins. Because of these frequent serious sailing delays, BC Ferries were requested to look into the feasibility of starting the Summer schedule about the middle of June rather than at the end of June.

Steve Anderson commented during his presentation that if BCF ran the summer schedule two weeks early, we would lose the commuter sailing at 5:30 pm as we wouldn't have the Queen of Coquitlam in service to provide those sailings. There are some limitations in bringing the Queen of Coquitlam in early as the vessel will often be used for Coastal Class refits in June, before the start of the Route 3 summer schedule. Additionally, the costs of running the Queen of Coquitlam two weeks early would have to be looked at as crewing and fuel consumption have to be taken into account. Even with the Queen of Coquitlam, we still would not be able to run Tuesday and Wednesday commuter sailings.

David Dick advised that the toll booths looked like they were closed at 9:20 the other night while the Queen of Surrey did not sail from HSB until an hour later. Does BC Ferries close the toll booths even if the sailing is late?

Jason Bowman replied that the terminal does keep the booths open with late sailings, but advises customers to watch the notices as the vessel can make up the time. If the terminal is showing one booth open, then both a foot booth and vehicle booth will be kept open.

**ACTION: Jason Bowman to look into what happened when the booths appeared to be closed before the last sailing.**

**b. Tariff Rationalization** – Grant Bierlmeier led a discussion around tariff rationalization on Route 3 for April 1, 2010.

Guiding Principles:  
Revenue Neutrality  
Simplicity  
Reasonability

Grant stated that he wanted to get the FAC's thoughts on moving the fuel surcharges/rebates from a flat amount to a percentage surcharge/rebate.

Grant also proposed a \$2.00 charge for bicycles across the fleet. However, if a customer were to use their Experience Card, the customer would get a discount of \$2.00 on that charge at the \$75 load level therefore making the bicycle free of charge.

Grant discussed possibly eliminating the overweight vehicle charge. Overlength vehicles would potentially be charged the underheight base rate for the first 20 feet, and charged the commercial rate for the extra feet.

BC Ferries (BCF) is looking at increasing the buy-in level for the Experience Card when the fares go up April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The buy-in level would then remain relevant as fares increase.

BC Ferries is also looking at discontinuing the passenger only buy-in level as less than 2% of users actually purchase the \$40 buy-in level. In April 2010, BCF would look at one buy-in level of \$85 (Price TBD) and the price would subsequently increase each year.

**ACTION: Southern Sunshine Coast FAC to review the tariff rationalization proposals and get back to BC Ferries at the fall meeting with feedback on the aforementioned items.**

**c. Route 3 Summer Schedule – 5:30 p.m. Commuter Sailing** – Steve Anderson, Manager, Scheduling and Fleet Deployment, provided an overview of the two summer schedule commuter sailing issues: timing of the commuter sailing and lack of mid-week commuter sailings. He discussed possible options as well as challenges. The FAC is of the opinion that the summer schedule negatively affects the ability of residents to commute to the lower mainland and thereby affects the economy and demographics of the region. The FAC believes that the dropping of the 5:30 weekday summer sailing a few years ago could be a major contributing factor for the diminished number of commuters using BCFS on the Langdale run. Next steps include monitoring and promoting improvements to the Summer 2009 on-time performance, as well as scheduling a working group meeting to review improvement options. Steve noted that adjustments can be evaluated up to January 2010 for Summer 2010.

**ACTION: Sarah Cotton to send Steve Anderson’s presentation to FAC members. COMPLETED.**

**ACTION: BCF to schedule a working group meeting to review Summer 2010 schedule options. The SSC FAC to decide on two committee members to be part of Steve’s working group.**

## **6. FAC Business:**

a. FAC appointments – Chair Jakob Knaus noted that two positions on the FAC need to be filled. The committee would like representation from the commuters as well as the second Gibson’s representative.

**ACTION: Sarah Cotton to work with Jakob Knaus on filling these positions.**

**b. ACTION: Grant Bierlmeier and Rob Clarke to review separate fares for student travel. In the meantime, they encourage schools to use Experience Card to receive discounts. Rob will endeavour to have an answer regarding student travel before commencement of the 2009-2010 the school year.**

c. Because of lack of time the following items could not be fully discussed and they will be included in agenda for the next meeting:

- Canucks Sponsorship
- Ultra short vehicles preferred loading or reduction in fare
- Security upgrades at Langdale Terminal
- Bicycle safe storage

**7. Next meeting:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for October/November 2009.

**8. Correspondence:** No correspondence was presented.

**9. Meeting adjourned:** at 2:00 p.m.

**Approved:**

Captain Dale Phipps, Marine Superintendent  
Jakob Knaus, Chair

Date: August 6, 2009  
Date: August 31, 2009