

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Denman/Hornby Islands and Comox Valley Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	October 25, 2005
Location:	Denman Seniors & Museum Society, Denman Island
Time:	9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Roxanna Mandryk	Captain Gordon Nettleton Marine Superintendent
Louise Bell	Senior Captain Pete Kimmerly Denman Island – Hornby Island
Dennis Forsyth	Ann Carpenter Community Relations Manager, North Coast & Northern Islands
Jack Forsyth	Mark Stefanson Vice President, Communications
David Freeman	Erinn Cousins Business Manager, Capital Projects
Jim Garton	Melanie Christensen Administrative Assistant, Marine Superintendent
Leslie Gillett	
Giff LaRose	
Tony Law	
April Lewis	
Lynn Nunley	
John Ralston	

Guest: Martin Crilly, BC Ferry Commissioner

1. Call to Order:

Roxanna Mandryk called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made by all present. The Denman Transportation Advisory Committee members were introduced.

2. Approval of Agenda: The presentation and discussion of item 5 (c) Denman/Hornby FAC Survey Results will be held until the arrival of Mr. Crilly.

3. Public Presentation: None.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

a. Minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2005 were approved and distributed on March 1, 2005.

b. Review of Action Items:

- *Gary Leitch will forward the concept of commercial food carrier preferred loading during summer to Strategic and Corporate Planning Department for consideration when developing the Buckley Bay Master Terminal Plan. On current agenda for discussion item 5 (f).*
- *Gary Leitch will forward the suggestion of Tariff Booklets for commercial food carriers to BC Ferries Revenue Department. On current agenda for discussion item 5 (f).*
- *Virginia Moore and Ann Carpenter will investigate to see what BC Ferries is doing corporately regarding signage for idling vehicles in BC Ferries holding compounds. Judy Cryer, Manager of Terminal Operations, has ordered signs and requested they be posted at terminals upon arrival.*
- *Captain Pete Kimmerly will provide a communication bulletin to the Grapevine regarding the Gravelly bay beautification program. Completed and closed.*

5. New Business:

a. Update of Master Terminal Plans – Erinn Cousins

Erinn updated the Committee on the Buckley Bay and Denman West Master Terminal Plans, including input from meetings on August 18th and the sub-committee meeting of September 26th. Discussion and information from this FAC Meeting will assist the Planning Department to proceed.

Buckley Bay Master Terminal Plan

Marine structure work has been identified and BC Ferries has issued a "Request for Proposal". Qualicum First Nations consultation is still required. It was agreed that feedback on parking demand and requirements would be sought at public meetings.

Denman West Master Terminal Plan

BC Ferries' goal is to start the vehicle holding compound and queue lane project in the April 2007/08 fiscal year, and the marine structure project in 2011. BC Ferries and Ministry of Transportation have agreed to share survey costs of the queue lane up Denman Road. The costing/feasibility studies of the queue lane and parking will be presented for feedback through meetings with First Nations, employees, and public meetings. The Master Terminal Plan would then be presented to BC Ferries Executive for approval.

Option #1

- Includes a 36 AEQ (automobile equivalent) vehicle holding compound (not a full vessel load)
- Includes queue lane on Denman Road
- Requires no land acquisition
- Marine structure replaced within existing footprint and would involve a service disruption
- Would not provide a designated passenger pick-up/drop-off area or turn around lane

Option #2 (preferred)

- Includes 50 AEQ vehicle holding compound (a full vessel load)
- Includes queue lane on Denman Road
- Requires water lot expansion on north-west side of terminal
- Berth would be realigned when marine structure is replaced with no service interruption
- Includes designated passenger pick-up/drop-off area and turn around lane

- b. Speeding on Denman Island – No one recalls who submitted this agenda item. FAC agreed to delete item from agenda.
- c. Summary of FAC Meetings – Jack Forsyth
A proposal was made to BC Ferries for a one page summary of issues and resolutions from the twelve Ferry Advisory Committees, to be available for review on the BC Ferry website. Mark Stefanson will review this request. In the short term, Ferry Advisory Committee meeting minutes are available at: www.bcferries.com/about/public_consult/bcf_facs/
- d. FAC Committee Terms of Appointment - Mark Stefanson
BC Ferries is reviewing the advisory process to determine what is working and what is not to ensure two-way communication is achieved. The review of the advisory process will include interviews with the twelve Committee Chairs, and their recommendations. The FAC would like their unique committee arrangement to continue to ensure the community's best interests and continuity of knowledgeable FAC members. The FAC also requests 3 meetings per year, one of those to be an evening meeting.
- e. Preferred Loading, Commercial Food Carriers – Leslie Gillett
Concern was expressed that five Denman and Hornby commercial food carriers wait in line during peak summer traffic to transport their goods. The request for preferred loading was raised for these operators. Discussion took place regarding how to restrict other food carriers such as Pepsi, etc; restricting one third of Hornby car deck space for commercial food carriers thus forcing other summer traffic to wait; why the commercial food carriers do not have refrigerated trucks; current accessibility of underutilized daily first sailings from islands; user pay assured loading. BC Ferries will continue to review.
- f. Terminal "Turn off Engine Signs" – Leslie Gillett
Closed as identified in Review of Previous Meeting action items.

g. Senior Master Route Reports

Captain Gordon Nettleton for Route 21 Denman Island – Vancouver Island
 Captain Wayne Maxted has moved to work as Senior Master on Quadra Island-
 Campbell River Route. Captain Brian Dielissen is substituting in the capacity of
 Senior Master until a replacement has been named. He sends his regrets for being
 unable to attend the meeting but provides this report: Current traffic statistics
 indicate another busy summer season compared to last year.

	July 2005	August 2005
Passenger Traffic	increase 2.5 %	increase 3.9%
Vehicle Traffic	increase 1.1%	decrease 2.3%

Two major projects, upgrade for Buckley Bay Terminal and a mid life refit for the
 MV Quinita will occur on this route next year. Buckley Bay will see a new
 integrated ramp pontoon and wingwall project scheduled to commence in February
 2006. The construction is expected to have minimal impact on service as the new
 structure is planned for the area just outside the present berth. The MV Quinita,
 built in 1977 is slated for her mid life refit in October 2006. During this time, the
 MV Kahloke will provide service on the Denman route. The FAC requests the
 possibility of reducing the noise level in the passenger lounge when refitting the
 Quinita.

Senior Captain Pete Kimmerly, Route 22 Hornby Island – Denman Island

The MV Tachek has returned to Route 22 for the winter season. When reviewing
 traffic statistics, trends indicate the winter season is solid with a slow, steady rise.
 Summer traffic has been flat for two years which indicates tourists are still
 traveling. Captain Kimmerly will e-mail the traffic statistics to the Hornby FAC
 Members.

	July 2005	August 2005
Passenger Traffic	increase 1.7 %	decrease 0.2%
Vehicle Traffic	decrease 1.9%	decrease 1.6%

h. Denman/Hornby FAC Survey Results – FAC Sub-Committee

BC Ferries recognized the FAC sub-committee comprised of Louise Bell,
 Andrew Carmichael, David Freeman, Margaret Fraser, Jim Garton and Tony Law for
 their dedication and commitment to complete and present the survey. The FAC
 sub-committee thanked the BC Ferry Commissioner, Martin Crilly, for his motivation
 and support during this project, which commenced in 2004. The survey confirms
 the interest of communities and significance of issues. *"The mandate of this
 sub-committee was to undertake, by survey and public meeting, an assessment of
 the views of people and businesses, affected by the ferry service to Denman and
 Hornby islands. The assessment was to consider desirable characteristics of future
 ferry service for the two islands. The timing of this process is tied to the schedule
 for the negotiations of the second term of the contract between the Provincial
 Government and BC Ferries."*

The survey involved public meetings, development of a questionnaire to identify use and concerns of island communities, survey process distribution through local newspapers with additional copies available at local stores, compiling and analyzing completed questionnaires to determine the survey results.

“Shopping” was the major reason for travel for Denman residents with “work, employment or business” on Vancouver Island as the second major reason for travel. The three main reasons for Hornby residents use of the ferry system was “shopping”, “accessing medical services” and “employment, work or business.”

Primary concerns for both islands were identified as:

- Denman – speeding, or conditions relating to the problem of speeding across the island; poor road safety in the vicinity of the terminals, retention of parking at Denman West; affordability of the fares.
- Hornby – restricted access to Denman ferry; retention of Hornby Lane at Buckley Bay; affordability of the fares.

Vision for future ferry service in the report is identified as calmed traffic flow across Denman, safe access to the terminals and surrounding areas; greater price incentives for travelers taking up less deck space (i.e., lower fares for pedestrians, cyclists and small cars, and consideration of a lower fare for high occupancy (HOV) usage; no increase in ferry handling capacity but greater certainty for Hornby travelers bound for Vancouver Island; improved options for ferry use without a vehicle by way of: secure parking at both Buckley Bay and Denman West, bus service across Denman, requiring the cooperation of BC Ferries, local communities and both provincial and local government; affordable fares.

Mr. Crilly congratulated the Committee on completion of this survey and being leaders in this area. Mr. Crilly will study the report in detail and was fascinated by certain elements in common with other islands such as options for ferry use without vehicles, and price incentive for traffic that utilizes less deck space. He reminded the FAC of the need to keep in mind the rigidity on the cost side to make efficiencies as BC Ferries is locked into dedication of vessel and crew costs. He questioned whether there is a redesign of service required to better match the service with greater cost effectiveness to realign to need of communities? Islands demographics and requirements are changing and we should look at non private automobile transportation.

This report was accepted by the FAC and will be presented and/or circulated to communities, other committees or governments by:

- Roxanna Mandryk will forward to the Denman Transportation Committee, Provincial Government and the islands libraries
- Andrew Carmichael will forward an electronic copy of the report to Melanie and Mr. Crilly
- Louise Bell will submit a summary for the Grapevine
- FAC Members will present to their respective groups represented
- Ann Carpenter will check if BC Ferries can post the survey on BC Ferries website

6. Correspondence – None

7. Action Items:

- a. Summary of FAC Meetings – Mark Stefanson will review the request of a one page summary of all FAC issues and resolutions to be accessible on the BC Ferry website. Item 5 (c)
- b. BC Ferries will continue to review the preferred loading, Commercial Food Carriers topic. Item 5 (d)
- c. Captain Nettleton will forward the FAC's request for reduction of the noise level in the passenger lounge to the Engineering Superintendent, for consideration when refitting the Quinitsa. Item 5 (g)
- d. Presentation and/or circulation of the Denman/Hornby Survey as listed:
 - Roxanna Mandryk will forward to the Denman Transportation Committee, Provincial Government and the islands libraries
 - Andrew Carmichael will forward an electronic copy of the report to Melanie and Mr. Crilly
 - Louise Bell will submit a summary for the Grapevine
 - FAC Members will present to their respective groups represented
 - Ann Carpenter will check if BC Ferries can post the survey on the BC Ferries website

8. Next Meeting:

To be scheduled by Melanie Christensen and Roxanna Mandryk for April 2006.

Meeting adjourned: 12:15 p.m.

Approved:

Captain Gordon Nettleton
Roxanna Mandryk, Chair

Date: November 21, 2005
Date: November 21, 2005