

Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) - Record of Meeting

Date:	October 23, 2019
Committee Name:	Gabriola Island
Route:	19

Attendees:

<p>For the FAC:</p> <p><i>Chair</i> Steve Earle</p> <p><i>Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul O’Sullivan, Scott Colbourne • Heather O’Sullivan, Vanessa Craig • Peggy Richardson, Jim Ramsay 	<p>For BCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Anderson, Peter Simpson • Steve Nussbaum, John MacDonald • Lance Lomax, Darin Guenette
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Points of Agreement/Information:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The FAC thanked BC Ferries for making the requested changes to the evening schedule and noted that there was general agreement in the community that these have helped. ii. Terminal development updates. BCF shared that the Descanso side of the TDP has an application in process with the Islands Trust (rezoning and change to OCP), which will take approximately 18-24 months prior to finalizing. Once that is approved, there will be engagement events on the islands to provide details on designs and construction. Some discussion followed as to whether potential future financial strains (ie. traffic trends, financial changes could affect these TDP plans. iii. Island Class vessel update. The plan is to replace the Quinsam with two Island Class vessels in approximately three years. These 47 AEO, diesel-electric ships will be able to convert to full electric propulsion, and engagement sessions will be planned for scheduling. iv. Route report discussion. A brief summary was provided about the stats found on the route reports, and Heather asked if some further detail could be provided to FACs; ideally monthly overloads (ie. same display as OTP). v. Taylor Bay Road lineup issues. FAC reiterated that Taylor Bay Road is too narrow and risky for the ferry lineup, and drivers are having difficulty staying safe. Dangerous ‘u turns’ are still happening. They have previously asked BCF to place lineup attendants, but this has been denied. A meeting took place this past summer between FAC, BCF, MOTI and RCMP reps to talk about these problems. It was agreed that a traffic plan should be developed and BCF noted that they do not have a role in traffic enforcement and proposed something in a letter. The FAC did not agree with BCF’s basic plan and proposed other measures (different/more signage, no gaps in lineup, tree trimming, communications, another request for lineup attendants, line violators identified, etc). The FAC has previously discussed the
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feasibility of having flaggers on the road with a traffic company, and they have found the concept entirely reasonable.

John noted that MOTI has recently installed more signage along Taylor Bay Road (do not block driveway), and is erecting more ‘illegal u-turn’ signs soon. He currently does have a plan to deploy flaggers in a limited capacity (a 15-day pilot) for peak season of 2020, and is awaiting approvals. If approved, he will reach out to engage FAC/MOTI/RCMP to determine the most effective plan for placing the flaggers. A communication plan would also be required to let residents know when flaggers would be in place. He also has plans to install more BCF branded signage in the spring/summer. As well, a portable toilet has been budgeted for next peak season. It was noted that MOTI is the organization that would need to determine if the lineup could move to North Road, and they have not indicated interest in doing so.

vi. Gabriola announcements. A number of community members have approached the FAC with concerns/complaints about the safety announcement being made in dock, as this negatively affects a large number of residents near the terminal. The FAC suggests that there may be opportunity to discuss a change of timing for the announcements, particularly to further out in the bay. Lance noted that there are two groups of residents who differ in opinion of where the announcements are made, and so the procedure is to make the announcements in dock.

vii. BCF updates. The plan is to launch the new website in early spring 2020 and this will provide new functionality. Soon after the launch, BCF will look to initiate dynamic/flexible fare options on the ‘major routes’. Note that the information displaying the level a sailing is full and parking lot status will now indicate how much space is available instead. FAC asked how the Experience Card functionality changing with the new website (including the ability to remove lost/dead cards from an account).

viii. Public/open discussion. Public members raised points about problems on Taylor Bay Road. Don E. noted that he has frequent problems with vehicles blocking his driveway and after talking with MOTI and RCMP expects BCF to be responsible for the unsafe/illegal activities of their customers. BCF agrees that they need to work with MOTI/RCMP to ensure all aspects of safety (residents, lineups) are addressed.

Discussion around developing some sort of ‘ferry etiquette guide’ and/or information distribution channel followed.

Announcements. Residents near the terminal asked further questions about why announcements have to occur while in dock when so many people are inconvenienced. BCF is also working on ways to reduce the volume of announcements as a possible mitigation to the impact on residents. Residents near the terminal suggest that the announcements be made even further out in the bay, where no residents would hear the noise. General discussion followed around whether there are ways to come up with procedures to lessen the impact.

Action Items¹:

Item	Who	By When
1. Provide monthly data for overloads on route reports (same as OTP).	Peter	Future meetings

¹ Significant Service Request (SSR) requiring detailed analysis and formal decisions from BCF should be submitted using the SSR process. Submission of a SSR should be noted as an Action Item.

2. Provide basic summary of 'flagger expectations' for FAC.	John	If flagger plan approved
3. Provide summary of whether Experience Card functions on the new website will change.	Darin	End-November