

Request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*:*Records related to:*

1. *The reason why BC Ferries is considering this route; and*
2. *The outcome of this consideration.*

Response:

Item 1: British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. ("BC Ferries" or "the Company") is investigating the opportunity of providing passenger-only ferry service between the Westshore at Royal Bay in Colwood and downtown Victoria at Ships Point and between Royal Bay and Esquimalt Harbour.

BC Ferries believes there is a viable opportunity to launch, support and sustain dependable, long-term commuter service between the rapidly expanding western communities and two central employment areas. For BC Ferries, this is an opportunity to provide a solution to an increasingly challenging community transportation issue, diversify the company's service offerings and enhance its standing in the service sector.

Item 2: To facilitate the Company's efforts, BC Ferries has retained an experienced consultant who can undertake a Pre-Feasibility study to assess and determine the viability of a passenger-only service. This Pre-Feasibility study will be the basis for understanding the viability of passenger-only service in the regional district and will assist in determining next steps. BC Ferries is currently proceeding with the Pre-Feasibility Study.

This study will provide the basis for understanding the viability of passenger-only service in the regional district and of the routes.
