



# Guemes Island Ferry Committee

Carl Cady Vic Garcia Marilee Fosbre Steve Orsini Glen Veal, Chairman

Dec. 21, 2005

Mr. Dean Maxwell, Chairman  
RURAL TRANSPORTION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Dear Chairman Maxwell,

We would like to request that the RTPO review the policies of the Transportation Element of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan that pertain to the Guemes Ferry operation and include them in the development of a coordinated transportation system.

As you may know, the growing number of vehicles using the Guemes Ferry is causing congestion on the Ferry and at the Ferry terminals in Anacortes and Guemes Island. This growth in vehicular traffic is presenting a host of challenges for Skagit Co. Public Works, the citizens of Guemes Island, Anacortes terminal neighbors, and the taxpayers of Skagit County.

In reviewing the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element, it is clear that many policies have been written specifically to deal with the Guemes Ferry operation (attached). Currently, many of these policies are being overlooked. We are requesting that the RTPO utilize these policies to properly plan for the future of the Guemes Ferry operation. We will all benefit from a coordinated effort between City, County and State government representatives and citizens to implement these policies which were developed to provide for a well planned and integrated transportation system.

Currently, Skagit County Public Works is including tentative plans for a larger ferry in its Transportation Improvement Program as well as expansion of the level of service. Both of these developments are in conflict with the policies of the SCCP (attached). This lack of coordinated planning has resulted in the organization of concerned citizens on Guemes Island and in Anacortes who would like the transportation policies of the SCCP to be followed, not ignored.

Since the SCCP Transportation Element has many policies that were developed specifically for the Guemes Ferry operation, we hope you agree that the time has come to acknowledge these policies and provide a framework for their implementation.

Sincerely,  
*Glen Veal*  
Glen Veal, Chairman

Attachment: Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Policies

SKAGIT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/ TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT POLICIES  
(CHAPTER 9) RELEVANT TO THE OPERATION OF THE GUEMES FERRY:

Pg. 9-2, “Development of this chapter was guided in particular by the following GMA Planning Goal: Encourage efficient multi-modal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with County and city Comprehensive Plans”

Pg. 9-3, Goal A “To maintain and improve the County’s transportation system in a way that respects the unique character of the county, and accomplishes this in an environmentally and economically sensitive manner”

Pg. 9-4, Policy 9A-1.3 “The County supports alternatives to the passenger car as possible means to relieve congestion.”

Pg. 9-6 Objective 5 “To promote a safe, coordinated and integrated public transportation system”

Pg. 9-7, Policy 9A-6.1 “Skagit County supports expansion of public transportation service into the unincorporated areas only with public support.”

Pg. 9-7, Policy 9A-6.9, “The County shall support public and private transit service links to the Guemes Ferry and the State Ferry in Anacortes.”

Pg. 9-8, FERRY SERVICE, Objective 8 “To encourage adequate and cost effective ferry service”

Pg. 9-9, Policy 9A-8.1 “The County encourages the provision of adequate street, highway, and road facilities to accommodate traffic to the ferry terminals in Anacortes.”

Pg. 9-9, Policy 9A-8.2 “To meet future increases in demand, the County shall increase service of the Guemes Island Ferry by: (a) encouraging car pooling and walk-on passengers; (b) increasing the frequency of ferry runs based on demand; and (c) considering additional ferry capacity if the aforementioned procedures fail to accommodate demand.”

Pg. 9-9, Policy 9A-8.3 “In making all decisions related to the Guemes Island Ferry, the County shall balance the needs of the Island residents, the non-resident property owners, and the County citizenry as a whole.”

Pg. 9-9, Policy 9A-8-4 “The County shall work with the city of Anacortes, property owners, and residents of Guemes Island to develop adequate parking areas.”

Pg.9-9, Policy 9A-8.5 “The County shall continue to provide safe and adequate ferry service between Anacortes and Guemes Island, and a fare structure designed to recover as much operating cost as practical from the users.”

Pg.9-9, Policy 9A-8.7 “The Regional Transportation Planning Organization should establish level of service standards for ferry service”

Pg. 9-10, Policy 9A-9.9 “The development of affordable, cost-effective non-motorized transportation system in terms of right-of-way acquisitions, design, development, maintenance and the incorporation of non-motorized facilities into multi-modal facilities shall be promoted.”

Pg. 9-13, Policy 9A-11.6 “Non motorized transportation shall be promoted as a viable, healthy, non-polluting alternatives to the single occupancy automobile”

Pg. 9-14, Objective 13 “To integrate air, water, and land-based transportation facilities.”

Pg.9-14, Policy 9A-13.1 “The County shall support a county transportation network, which integrates all modes of transportation system.”

Pg. 9-14, Policy 9A-13.2 “The County shall identify improvements that will encourage shared rides, park and rides, and transit usage.”

Pg. 9-20, Objective 22 “To have all planning decisions integrate transportation with land use”

Pg. 9-20, Policy 9A-22.1 “Land use actions and decisions by the County shall take into consideration the short and long term public costs and benefits of providing transportation facilities to accommodate development impacts.”

Pg. 9-20, Policy 9A-22.4 “The County shall establish regulations that ensure the compatibility between land use activities and transportation facilities and services.”

Pg. 9-23, Policy 9A-24.6 “The County shall provide efficient management of all transportation resources through cooperation in planning and project development with federal, state, regional and local jurisdictions.”