



MAYOR'S REPORT
September 21, 2022
BREMERTON
WASHINGTON



Photo courtesy of Port of Bremerton

Bremerton Ferry Route Update

- Letter sent by Mayor Wheeler to Gov. Inslee on Sept. 16 requesting state support for temporary expansion of Kitsap Transit ferry service as a stop gap for state ferry cuts to the Bremerton-Seattle route – signed by local elected leaders, state legislators and others.
- City partners have agreed to sign on to the effort!
 - **Greater Kitsap Chamber** leadership was unanimous in its support at the Chamber's September board meeting.
 - A letter signed by members is being prepared to send to Gov. Inslee and officials in charge of Washington State Ferries
 - **Kitsap Economic Development Alliance** is writing a letter of support and securing additional letters from community members to send to state leaders
 - More to come!



Mayor Greg Wheeler

guy@inslee.wa.gov
Gov. Jay Inslee
State Office Building 110
Bremerton, WA 98512-1875

September 16, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are writing to express the need for the temporary expansion of Kitsap Transit passenger-only ferry service on the current Washington State Ferry (WSF) Bremerton-Seattle route. The Mayor of Bremerton and part of the Board of Commissioners for Kitsap Transit raised the topic on this possibility at the Kitsap Transit September Board meeting. The Board has representation from Kitsap County and all of the cities. Verbal support and encouragement was received from all Board members to bring this matter to your attention.

For seven decades, WSF has provided essential access to connect communities, including the City of Bremerton. WSF states on its website that "our routes act as a marine highway." Ferries serve as an indispensable transportation link in the state's highway system and cross spans of waterways as alternatives to miles of bridges and tunnels across Puget Sound. The Federal Highway Administration also recognizes the WSF in this capacity, recently awarding millions of dollars in distribution in funding to the agency.

Kitsap County has 250 miles of saltwater coastline and relies on state ferry routes as crucial marine highways to support the free flow of people, goods, and services between our local communities and the major economic center of Washington state. Having full WSF ferry operations is essential to our economy as well as the quality of life of our citizens.

We have seen an increase in WSF service cuts due to a lack of workers, increased retirements, vessel maintenance, among other issues. While the reductions have had a significant impact on our communities, the Bremerton route is located in an urban area that serves areas of persistent poverty and has fewer transportation opportunities. The Bremerton ferry faces hours-long gaps between sailings, which is expected to continue until at least 2023. Hundreds of thousands of passengers that depend on a stable and reliable WSF Bremerton marine highway are encountering serious hardship and financial impacts due to reduced service levels. We agree a pressing need exists to address this issue for residents.

Protecting Sanitary Sewers and the Environment

- The City of Bremerton is preparing a mailer to inform residents on steps to avoid improperly disposing of fats, oils and grease down the drain.
- A blockage from grease deposits in the City's public sewer lines was the cause of sewer discharges in Oyster and Ostrich bays this summer.
- The flyer provides information and steps of what to do and what not to do when disposing of fats, oils and grease.
- The information is designed to educate neighborhood residents and help protect the City's sewer system from future discharges.



The flyer features a blue header with the title 'City of Bremerton Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)'. Below the header is a scenic photograph of Bremerton, WA, showing a bridge over a bay. In the top right corner, there is a QR code and contact information for Public Works & Utilities: 100 Oyster Bay Ave N, Bremerton, WA 98312, 360-473-5920, and BremertonWA.gov. The City of Bremerton logo is in the bottom right. The main body of the flyer is divided into several sections: 'UNCLOG THE FOG - NO FATS, OILS & GREASE' with a list of 'DON'T' and 'DO' instructions; 'DID YOU KNOW?' with information on why grease causes clogs and how to prevent them; 'PROBLEMS CAUSED BY GREASE' with a bulleted list of issues; 'PROTECT AND MAINTAIN YOUR SEWER LINE' with a bulleted list of maintenance steps; and 'COMMON PLACES FOG IS HIDING IN YOUR KITCHEN' with illustrations of a jar, a cow, and a burger, each with a list of items that can cause clogs.

City of Bremerton
Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)

Public Works & Utilities
100 Oyster Bay Ave N
Bremerton, WA 98312
360-473-5920
BremertonWA.gov

UNCLOG THE FOG – NO FATS, OILS & GREASE

DON'T pour oil or grease down the drain.

DON'T put food scraps down the drain.

DON'T pour liquid foods (dairy products, syrups, batters and gravy, etc.) down the drain.

DON'T run water over greasy dishes, pans or fryers.

DON'T use chemicals to remove grease clogs, they can damage the piping system.

DON'T rely on garbage disposal to get rid of grease (excess use of garbage disposals can also contribute to blocked pipes).

DO place cooled oil and grease into trash bins or covered collection containers.

DO scrape food scraps into trash bins.

DO manually wipe off all visible fats, oils, grease and food residue from dishes and cookware into trash bins.

DO use a strainer in the sink to collect excess food particles.

DO encourage neighbors to help keep fats, oils, and grease out of the sewer system.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cooking grease is one of the main causes of residential sewer overflows.

Why do clogs occur?

When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes. This can cause significant problems in the sanitary sewer system and at wastewater treatment plants, causing increased sewer rates.

Clogs can be caused by improper disposal of fats, oils, and grease. A partial or total blockage can cause floor drains, sinks and dishwashers to back up or not work properly.

To help prevent these clogs, dispose of FOG properly.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY GREASE

- Clogged drains and toilets
- Sewage backups into your home or business
- Sewer overflows into local parks, yards, parking lots and streets
- Unpleasant odors
- Potential contact with bacterial and viruses that can cause serious illness
- Expensive cleanup, repair, and replacement of damaged property (often paid for by the property owner)
- Higher operating and maintenance costs to the municipality, potentially resulting in higher sewer bills for you

PROTECT AND MAINTAIN YOUR SEWER LINE

- Find out where your sewer line is located. Contact **Bremerton1** at **360-473-5920** or **Bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us**.
- Locate and cap your sewer cleanout.
- Disconnect your property's downspouts to keep excess rainwater out of the sewer system.
- Find out the condition of your sewer line by hiring a plumber to examine them

COMMON PLACES FOG IS HIDING IN YOUR KITCHEN

Mayonnaise, Salad Dressings, Cooking Oils, Gravy and Sauces

Butter, Lard, Shortening, Ice Cream, Sour Cream and other Dairy Products

Fats and oils from cooking meat, Fried Foods, Food Scraps and Baked Goods

Kitsap Lake Update

- Kitsap Lake had an algae bloom the week of September 12 and the City responded by having the lake water tested.
- Results were reported to Kitsap Public Health and lakefront property owners.
- Kitsap Public Health conducted additional testing and posted a no contact advisory.
- Monitoring will be ongoing until the issue has cleared.



Kitsap Lake Update (continued)

How algae blooms are triggered:

- Natural water layers occur in the summer trapping phosphorus in the cooler bottom layer of the lake until the fall, when the lower layer mixes with the top. This mixing feeds the algae and can cause a bloom to occur. (Seasonal variations happen in the lake throughout the year.)
- Wind and air temperature can also cause the lake to mix at any time, which accounts for variations in algae blooms.
- Recent cooler conditions mixed water layers together, generating the recent bloom.
- This spring, treatment was applied to trap phosphorus through the summer and a summer application provided clear lake water to the end of the warmer season.

Lake Turnover

