

# Washington State Ferries 2040 Long Range Plan

## Technical and Policy Advisory Group

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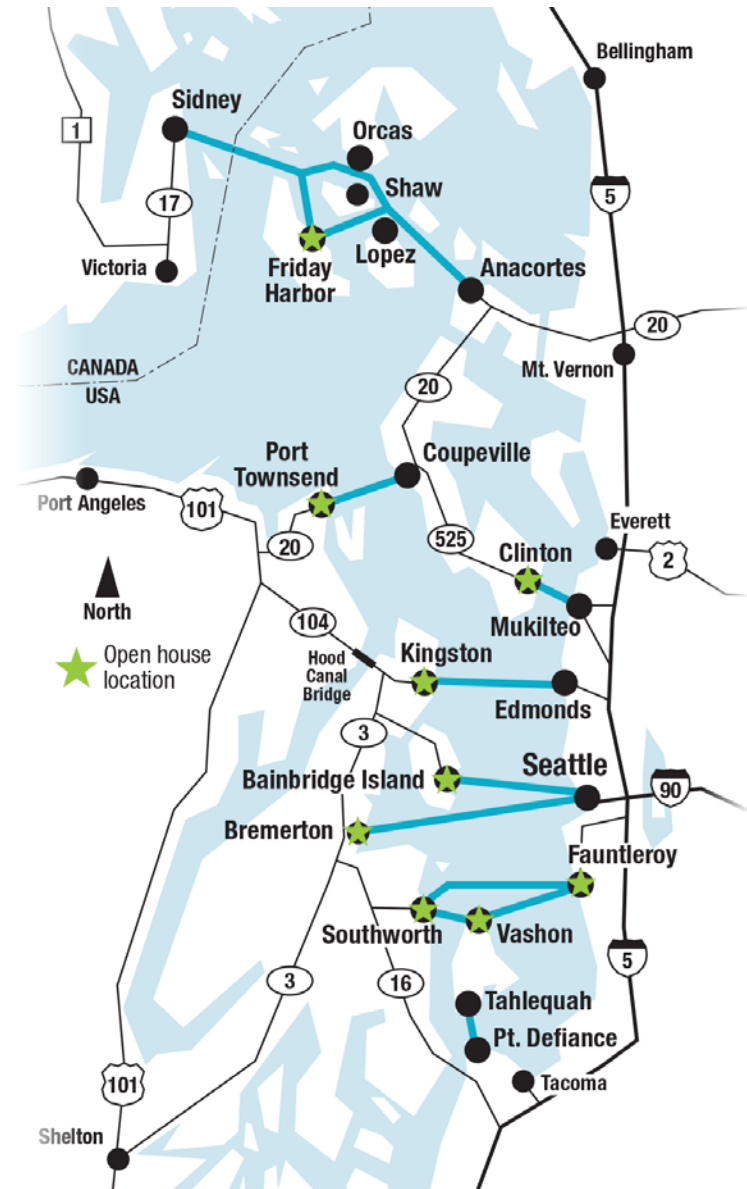
# Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Community engagement update
- Present key plan elements
- Lunch break
- Update on work to date for additional plan elements
- Small group discussions
  - Route-by-route service scenarios
  - Vessel maintenance and replacement
- Small group report out
- Next steps

# Community engagement update

- 9 in-person open houses
- Online open house live from April 10- May 24

[WSFlongrangeplan.com](http://WSFlongrangeplan.com)



# Getting the word out



**68** posters displayed at terminals and aboard ferries



**2,150** project website views

**44**  
tweets



**122,115**  
total impressions

**28**  
emails



sent to  
**35,350**  
people

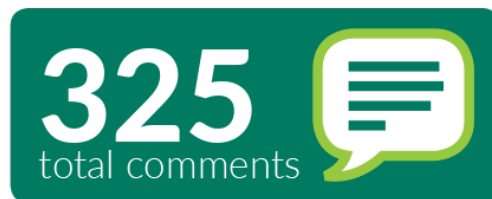
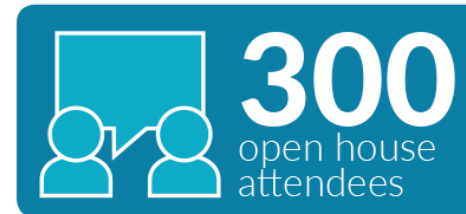


**1** press release sent to statewide media



**22** news articles

# Community engagement



# What we've heard

## Key themes:

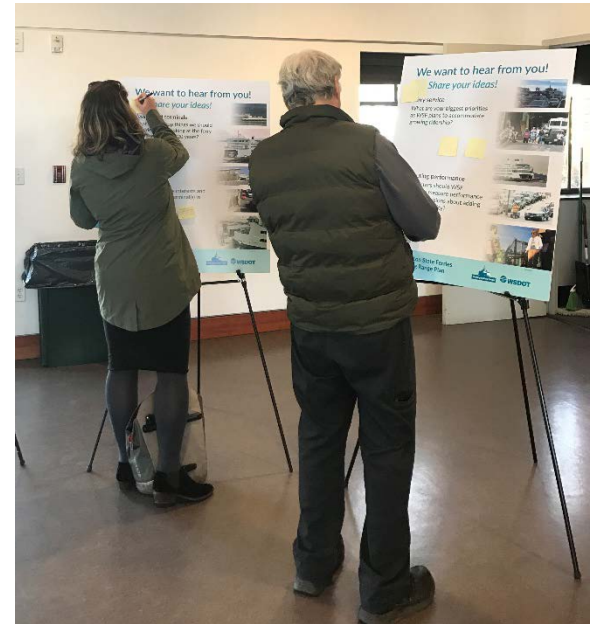
- Reliability
  - Prioritize building new ferries and invest in maintenance so ferries don't break down as often
  - Provide reliable service (no matter what)
  - Seek stable funding
- Plan for growth
  - Increase ferry service and add routes
  - Evaluate strategies such as vehicle reservations and adjusting schedules
  - Build more ferries and improve terminals
  - Questions about growth



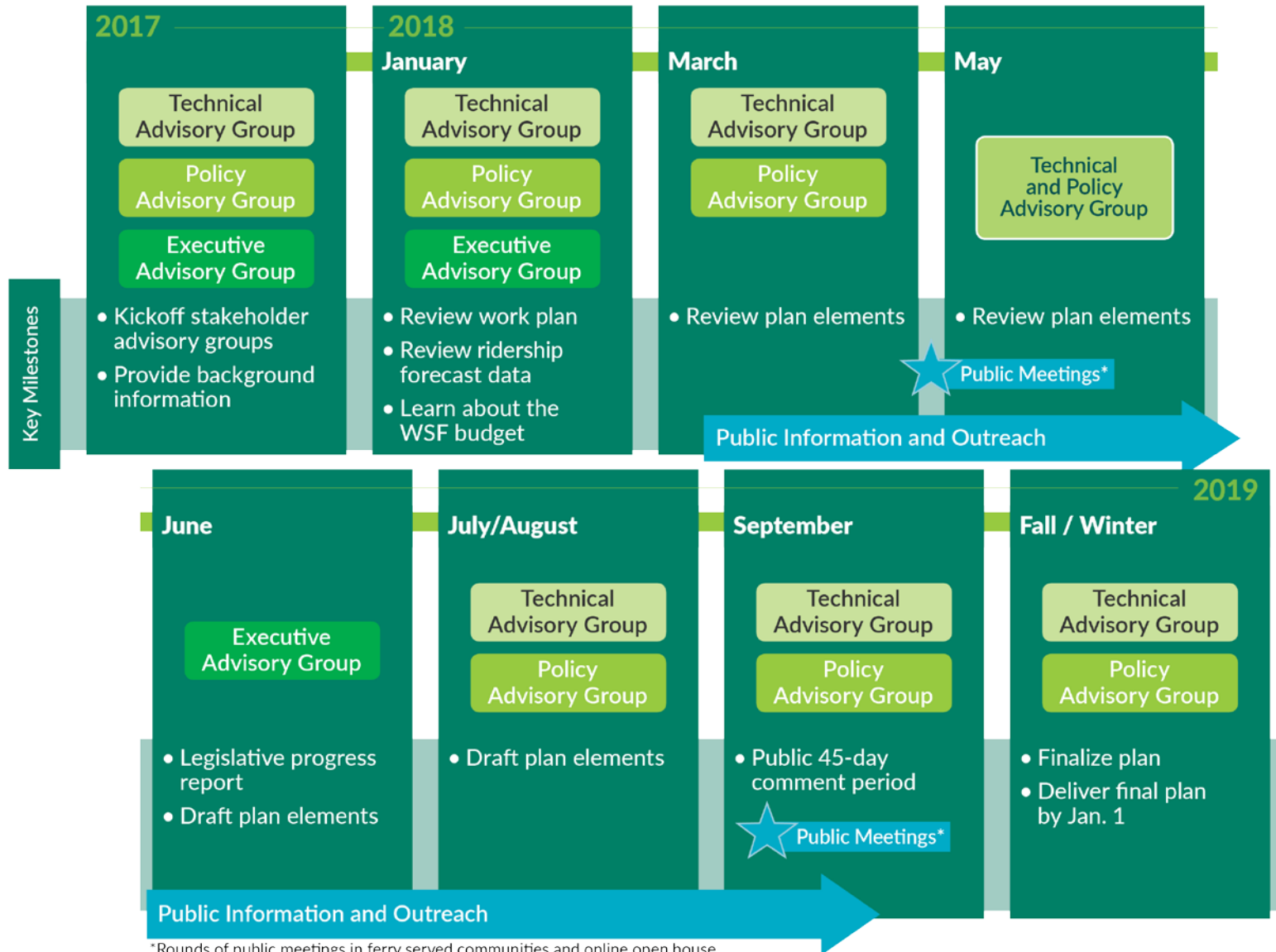
# What we've heard

## Key themes continued:

- Accessibility and multimodal connections
  - Ensure accessibility for all users
  - Improve connections to transit
  - Better walking, biking, parking, and carpooling amenities
- Technology and customer experience
  - Improve ticket technology and wi-fi
- Sustainability and resiliency
  - Reduce carbon-emissions
  - Prepare for climate change and emergencies



# Timeline



\*Rounds of public meetings in ferry served communities and online open house.



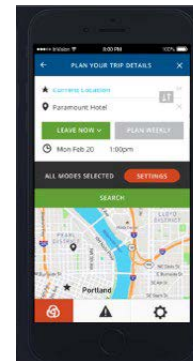
# Key findings and preliminary recommendations

- Technology
  - Assessment
  - Preliminary recommendations
- Vessel maintenance and replacement
  - Assessment
  - Preliminary recommendations
- Level of service
  - Current standards
  - Preliminary recommendations

# Technology assessment: gap analysis

## Gap analysis findings

- Need for integrated systems
- Ability to manage and analyze data is limited
- Customer information is incomplete
- Reliance on manual processes
- Electronic fare system needs upgrading
- Need for accurate and reliable passenger counting
- Communications infrastructure needs updating
- Managing specialized assets is challenging
- Landside infrastructure outside of WSF purview
- Opportunities to convert vessels to hybrid/electric



# Technology assessment: priorities

## Key priorities

### Reliability

- Provide seamless and predictable customer planning, booking, ticketing, and traveling
- Support customers before and during travel with targeted, useful, and accurate trip information and alerts
- Improve data and technologies that enhance safety and security

### Efficiency

- Use technology to load ferries more efficiently and spread demand across peak periods
- Improve operational efficiency with better data capture, management, and analytics
- Efficiently manage and apply technology investments and resources

### Sustainability

- Plan strategically to upgrade and replace legacy systems
- Use technologies to improve WSF's environmental footprint

# Technology assessment: recommendations

## Preliminary recommendations to WSF

Near term (0-5 years)	Mid term (5-10 years)	Long term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upgrade ticketing and reservations</li><li>• Improve terminal queue detection and wait times</li><li>• Refresh website</li><li>• Improve customer alerts</li><li>• Convert vessels to hybrid/electric</li><li>• Vessel, terminal, and IT asset management system</li><li>• Vessel automation systems**</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update vessel communication system</li><li>• Implement automatic passenger counting</li><li>• Improve terminal wayfinding and real time passenger information</li><li>• Upgrade common schedule database</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide real time parking information</li><li>• Provide real-time vessel monitoring system*</li><li>• Implement automatic passenger counting-vehicles**</li><li>• Detect vehicle length automatically**</li></ul>

\* Indicates that this investment ranges in priority (e.g. moderate to high)

# Q&A

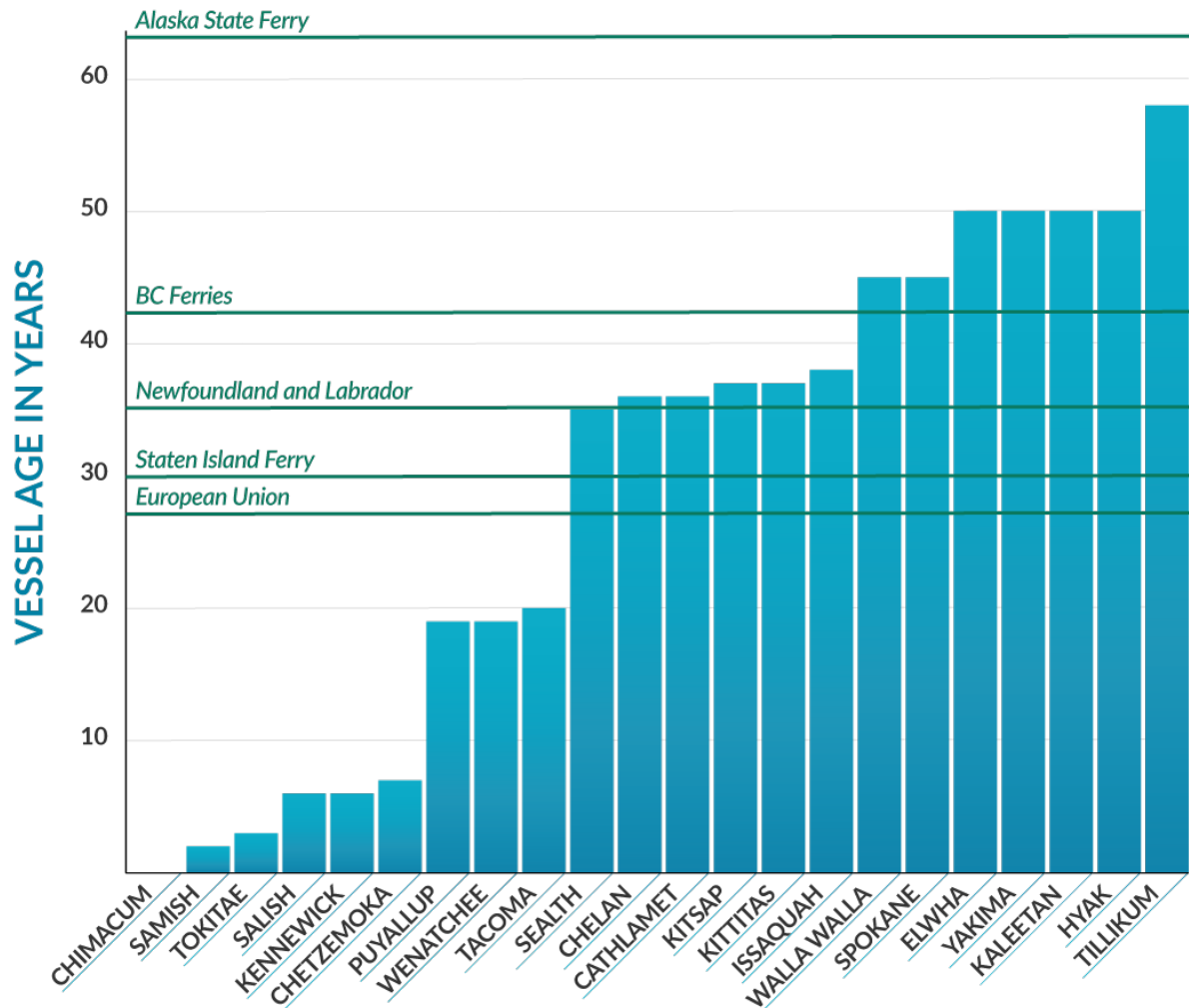
# Vessel maintenance and replacement assessment

## State of the fleet

- Lack of funding
- Prioritizing maintaining service over maintenance
- Lack of relief vessels to perform required maintenance
- Aging fleet
- High utilization



# Vessel age compared to other systems' vessel retirement age



# Vessel maintenance and replacement assessment

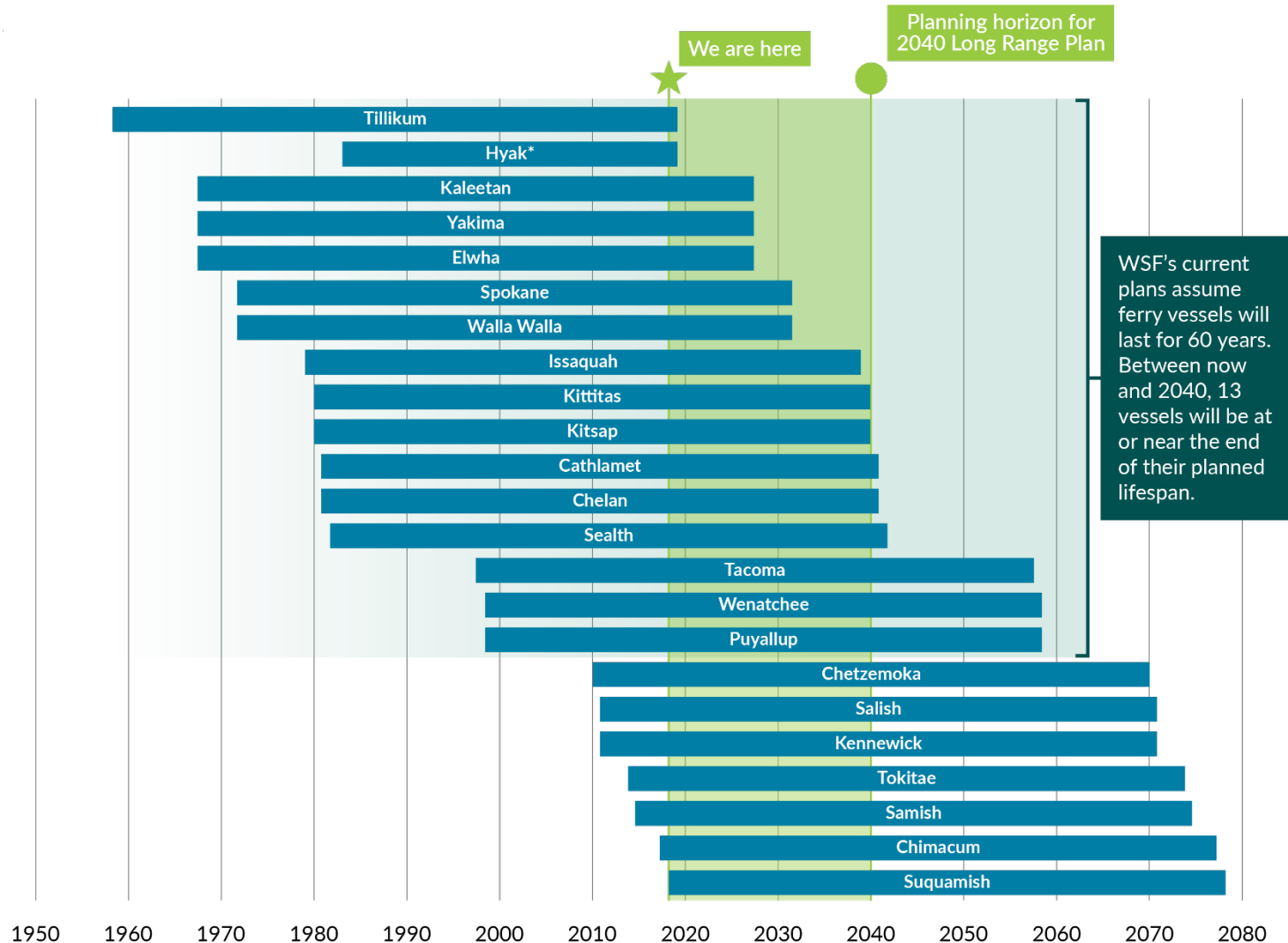
## Key constraints:

- Shipyard availability
- Lack of reserve fleet
- Dedicated funding for vessel replacement program





# Current vessel retirement schedule



\*Hyak did not have a mid-life refurbishment. It is scheduled to be retired in 2019.

# Vessel maintenance and replacement assessment

## Preliminary recommendations to WSF to stabilize the fleet:

- Build new Olympic Class vessel(s) immediately, in service by 2022/2023
- Build new ferries with hybrid and electric power and retrofit Jumbo Mark II Class
- Implement comprehensive, large-scale construction program that maximizes efficiency and builds vessels in sequence
- Replace Issaquah Class ahead of Jumbo Class



## Policy review:

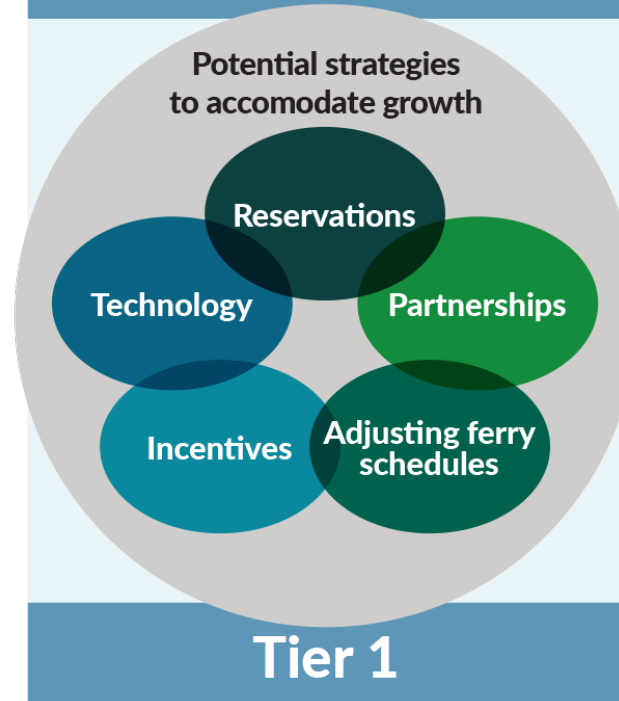
- Vessel service lifespan
- Contracting restrictions on shipyard contracts to streamline building process
- Public education and outreach campaign on the state of the ferry system and its importance to economy

# Q&A

# Current level of service standards

Collect vehicle ridership forecasts by route for January, May and August

Is vehicle capacity full on 25-35 percent of sailings in these months?



Is vehicle capacity full on 50-85 percent of sailings in these months

**Add vehicle capacity**

- larger vessels
- additional sailings

Tier 2

# Level of service recommendations

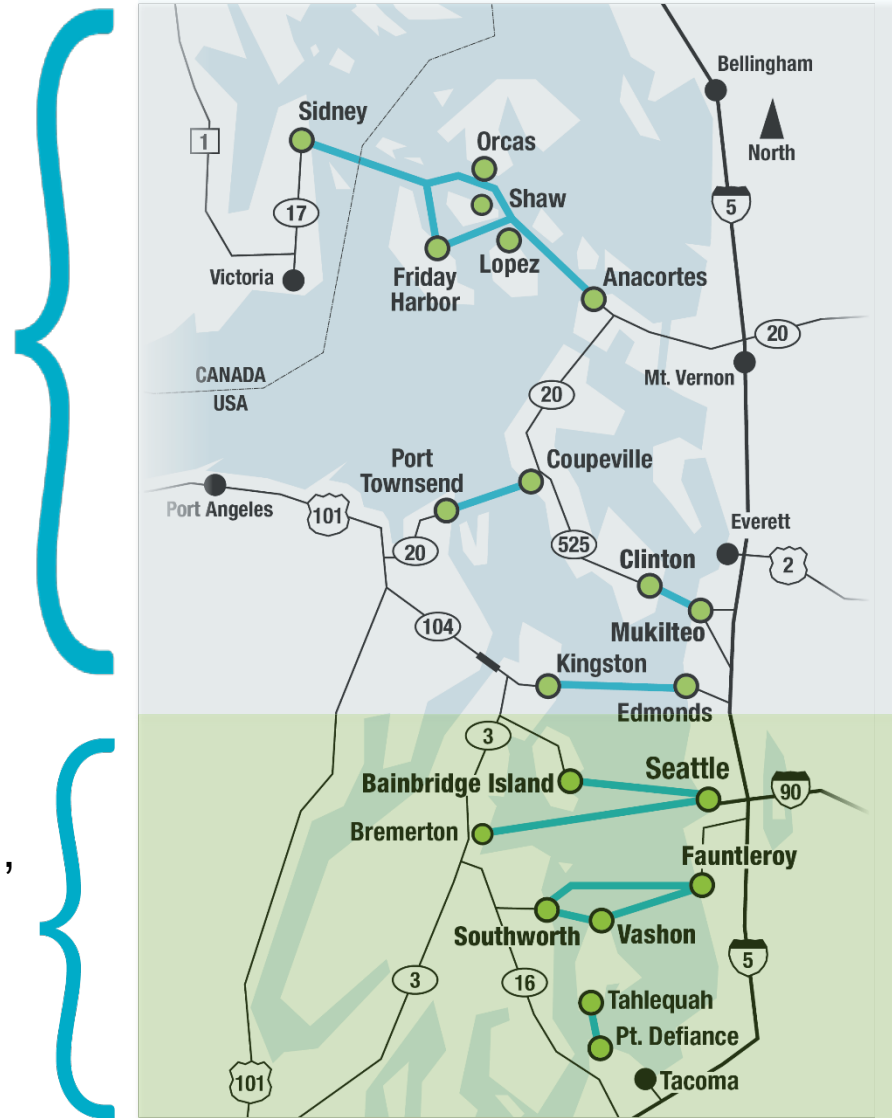
## **Preliminary recommended changes to LOS standards:**

- Revise vehicle criteria:
  - On routes with reservations, measure space available for reservations instead of total vessel capacity
- Add passenger criteria:
  - Accommodate all walk-on passengers
  - LOS for bicycles?
  - Two tier approach
    - Level 1: Use vessel indoor seated capacity (could differ by route depending on length of crossing)
    - Level 2: Use total passenger capacity

# Route-by-route service levels

**North Puget Sound routes:**  
Heavier vehicle congestion

**South Puget Sound routes:**  
Heavier passenger congestion,  
some vehicle congestion



# Q&A

# Lunch break



# Existing performance metrics

## Financial

- Annual operating cost
- Overtime hours
- Fuel consumption

## Asset Management

- Average time vessels out of service

## Operations

- Passenger and crew injuries
- Customer satisfaction
- On-time performance
- Service reliability

## Capital Project Delivery

- Percent of terminal projects completed on time and within budget
- Percent of vessel contracts completed on time and within budget
- Preliminary engineering costs (% of capital cost)

# Performance metrics recommendations

## Preliminary recommendations to WSF:

- Revise existing metrics:
  - Vessel maintenance (out of service time)
  - Late departures (on-time performance)
- Add new metrics:
  - Vessel reliability
  - Queue length, peak period wait times
  - Dwell time by route
  - Greenhouse gas emissions



# Seismic assessment and emergency preparedness

## Preliminary recommendations to WSF:

### Seismic assessment

- Identify and prioritize seismic upgrades
- Incorporate into asset management program
- Seek opportunities and clarity around funding requirements

### Emergency preparedness

- Establish priority routes for repair (underway)
- Identify funding sources related to emergency preparedness
- Identify alternative landing sites
- Fuel supplier emergency access plan
- Increase number of spare vessels
- “Side-loading” engineering analysis
- Emergency staffing and communication planning



# Sustainability

## Preliminary recommendations to WSF:

- Executive orders
  - Begin transition to zero-carbon emission fleet
  - Quiet ferries to reduce impact to Orca whales
- Terminals and facilities
  - Reduce idle time for queued vehicles
  - Improve facilities' energy efficiency
- Vessels
  - Reduce fuel consumption and electrify fleet



# Review of local and regional plans

WSF reviewed local plans to assess how areas around terminals are likely to change. We asked three questions:

1. Do local plans support ferry service and the facilities needed?
2. Will development increase congestion and create operational challenges?
3. Are transit and non-motorized connections adequate to support a shift to non-single occupancy vehicle modes?

# Review of local and regional plans: key findings

## **Policies in local plans:**

- Policies in local plans are generally supportive of inter-modal connections.
- Terminals are in constrained locations where improvements may be difficult.

## **Impacts from expected development:**

- Rapid growth is causing increased congestion across the region.
- Access to some terminals will become more difficult.

## **Transit and non-motorized connections:**

- Strong transit connections at Colman Dock, Edmonds, Mukilteo, Clinton, Bainbridge and Bremerton, less frequent service at other terminals.
- Non-motorized connections vary greatly, plans include an expanded network.

# Small group discussions

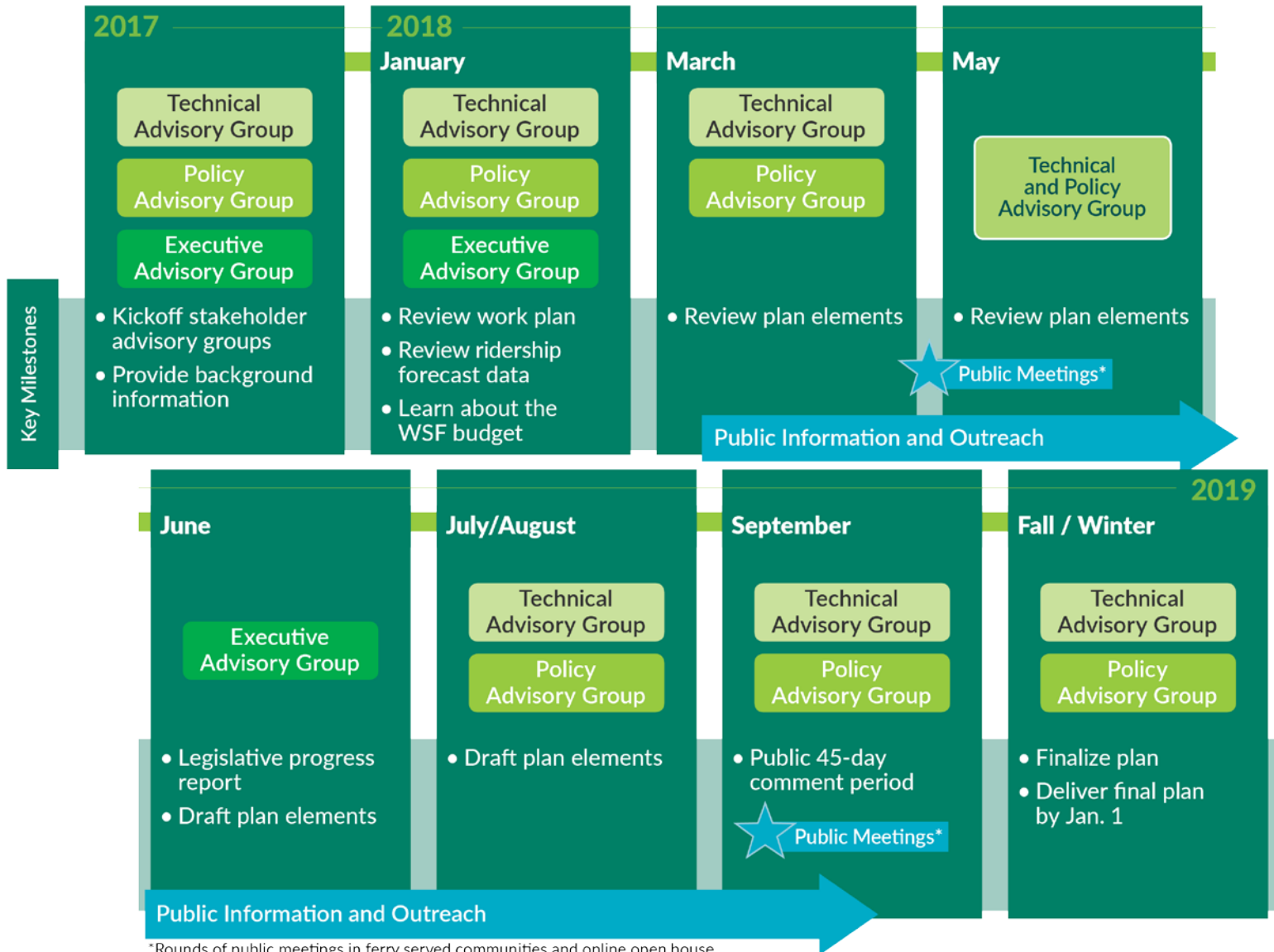
## **Session 1**

- Group 1: Route-by-route service scenarios
- Group 2: Vessel maintenance and replacement

## **Session 2**

- Group 1: Vessel maintenance and replacement
- Group 2: Route-by-route service scenarios

# Look ahead



\*Rounds of public meetings in ferry served communities and online open house.



# Timeline

