

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POULSBO, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR KITSAP TRANSIT'S PASSENGER-ONLY FERRY INVESTMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has made it abundantly clear that it has no intention of remaining in or returning to the provision of passenger-only ferry service, and the Washington State Legislature has provided funding only to continue service between Seattle and Vashon Island until King County can assume it; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has authorized Kitsap Transit to provide passenger-only ferry (POF) service in Puget Sound in a public-private partnership that enables Kitsap Transit to purchase boats, team up with ports to improve and use facilities, and enter into contracts with private operators for ferry operations; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap Transit has developed a plan that encompasses all aspects of cross-Sound passenger ferry service connecting Southworth, Port Orchard, Bremerton and Kingston with downtown Seattle, as well as local service connecting Port Orchard and Bremerton; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap Transit's passenger ferry service, at full development, would provide weekday rush hour trips every 20 to 30 minutes between Kitsap ports and downtown Seattle and hourly service at other times and on weekends; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Kitsap County (Kitsap) will decide on February 6, 2007 whether to enact a sales tax increase to finance passenger ferries, facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed sales tax increase is three-tenths of one cent, or \$0.30 per \$100.00 of taxable purchase; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the capital costs in the initial six-year plan would be funded from federal or state funds and one-third from the sales tax in Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, at full development of Kitsap Transit's POF Plan, one-half of the annual operating costs would be funded from passenger fares, a portion from miscellaneous

income, and the balance from the sales tax in Kitsap and the motor vehicle excise tax on license renewals in Kitsap; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple economic development reasons to support an expanded, frequent and rapid passenger ferry service from Kitsap, including the following:

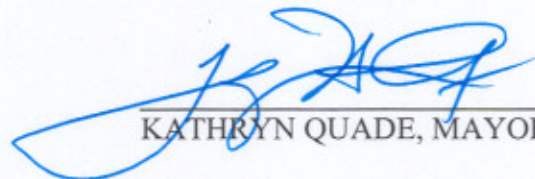
- (A) The passenger ferry service will help to retain existing primary businesses in Kitsap and thereby provide jobs to Kitsap residents because their owners – residing in Kitsap – can more easily access suppliers in Seattle and its environs, while their technical service providers in Seattle and its environs can more easily access businesses in Kitsap; and
- (B) The passenger ferry service will help to attract future primary businesses to Kitsap because their owners – residing in Seattle and its environs – can more easily locate their businesses in Kitsap and thereby provide jobs to Kitsap residents, yet access their businesses in a timely fashion even while maintaining their established lifestyles in Seattle; and
- (C) The ferry embarkation points are – with the exception of Southworth – in the urban cores of Kitsap’s urban growth areas and therefore will reinforce commercial and light industrial growth in their vicinity for the effective use of existing infrastructure; and
- (D) The passenger ferry service will help to increase tourism to Kitsap and thereby bring more funds and jobs to Kitsap; and
- (E) One effect of business retention and recruitment will include that of a more equitable distribution of real estate taxes in Kitsap between residential and business property owners; and
- (F) Another effect of business retention and recruitment will be the increase of Kitsap County property values that will accrue to the short or long-term benefit of their owners; and
- (G) The passenger ferries themselves will generate new maintenance and operating jobs in Kitsap County because the boats will be based at the Kitsap ports rather than in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, all of the above direct and indirect results of passenger ferries will help to diversify the economy of Kitsap, make it less dependent on its principal defense sector, provide opportunities for Kitsap residents to both live and work in Kitsap, and thereby generally improve civic life in Kitsap; and


WHEREAS, each generation should invest in its own and its children's future by building on physical and social improvements made by prior generations; now, therefore,

The City Council declares its support for the Kitsap Transit Passenger Only Ferry Plan and urges Kitsap voters to approve the ballot measure on February 6, 2007 authorizing necessary increases in the sales tax for this purpose.

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Poulsbo, Washington, this 17th day of January 2007.


KATHRYN QUADE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


KAROL JONES, CMC, CITY CLERK

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 1/10/2007
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 1/17/2007
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