

Susan Bladholm
The Frog Ferry

January 18, 2021

Dear Susan and Frog Ferry Members,

The Portland/Vancouver Metro is long overdue for a consistent ferry system. For most of the year, the Columbia and Willamette rivers are void of traffic, while the highways are full of cars and trucks. How fun would it be to get on a ferry boat and cruise to and from work on our lovely, open rivers?

During peak commute times, a trip can take over an hour or more to or from anywhere in the city. Busses and streetcars are subject to traffic jams, and light rail isn't going to Vancouver or Oregon City anytime soon. The river is wide open, no tracks or easements are required. In years past, the rivers were the central point of transportation and commerce.

Friends, locals, and people from out of town enjoy the experience of seeing the Metro area from the rivers' point of view. A person could hit a baseball from Foothills Park, Lake Oswego to Oak Grove, yet it would take 25 minutes to drive the distance without traffic. The river brings a richness and sense of place as it ties communities together.

The ferry boats will need to be fast, safe, adaptable, and well-funded. That said, the cost would be far less than bridge studies and simpler to initiate. Ferry terminals would help develop small economic zones and connect them in a fun and exciting way. Should the City of Portland develop Ross Island into a city, ferry access would be necessary. Think of the Victoria Inner Harbor Ferries, only bigger and faster.

I support the Frog Ferry service. It will significantly benefit the Portland/Vancouver metro area as a transportation resource and a medium for opening the river to the public.

Sincerely,



Steve Cridland
True North Charters and Piloting