

We Believe in a Brighter Future for Portland

Despite the warmer weather and the arrival of the cherry blossoms along the Willamette, it has been a challenging Spring for Frog Ferry. We have faced financial disappointments and hurdles along with some critical press which have put all of us through a test of faith that we can make our ferry a reality. But just when we thought it might be time to put our vision to rest, we heard from so many of you who encouraged us to keep going. We believe in a better Portland and are doing all we can to serve you as potential riders and our community.

As a brief recap, this is how our last few months have gone:

In February, we learned that we did not receive FTA funding that would fund our pilot vessel RFP and dock improvements. With the City of Portland as our sponsor we submitted an application for \$2.7M out of the \$45M available for ferries nationally. Awards went to projects in 11 states and territories. View the full list of award recipients [here](#). In a debrief meeting with the FTA administrator, we learned that Frog Ferry's application was scored on six key criteria. We received the highest ratings on three out of the six for demonstration of need, demonstration of benefits, and planning and local regional prioritization. The latter was due largely to our incredible number of letters of support ranging from our Congressional delegation to our neighborhood associations. However, we fell below expectations on three out of six criteria, including local financial commitment, project implementation strategy, and technical/legal/financial capacity. In essence, the FTA did not see financial commitment from the City or their taking an active role in managing the grant. We have the potential to reapply for 2022, when the notice of funding opportunity becomes available over the summer. However, history is likely to repeat itself unless we can secure a meaningful collaboration from the City of Portland.

We are working on a resolution with TriMet regarding the ODOT STIF grant. We have only been paid \$67K of \$500K since Sept. 2021, when we delivered the pilot project plan to ODOT and TriMet. Both agencies reviewed and accepted the work and ODOT continues to be very supportive of our initiative. Instead of having \$300K in the bank upon receipt of our deliverable in Sept, we have had to submit for reimbursement of expenses with few available funds to pay out to recoup costs. This is a change in how the first STIF grant was administered. We have tried in good faith to meet TriMet's expectations for documentation and have uploaded 130 documents to support our invoices and business practices. Had we known in advance of the contract of TriMet's requirements we would have handled our documentation much differently.

Were there things that we wish we could have done differently? Of course. Was there any financial impropriety? Absolutely not. Do we have the resources and personnel of a well-staffed public agency to provide oversight and counsel to this process? No, we do not. We have first and foremost been concerned with the work at hand, which has been outlining a path forward to launch our pilot project.

For more information on the ODOT grant and relationship with TriMet, please view the [FAQs](#) on our website.

We appealed to City Council for funding on April 13 and they denied our request based on the dispute with TriMet and their lack of information. (We reached out to each Commissioner many times prior to the Council meeting). City Council has clearly told us to get a resolution with TriMet and then we can return to City Council.



After City Council, we made appeals to leaders at City Hall and the TriMet Board of Directors at the April TriMet board meeting for mediation to resolve the ODOT grant dispute. So many of you came out to City Hall in person, or let us know you were with us in spirit, while we addressed the allegations from Commissioner Hardesty and TriMet in the City Council vote. Thank you! We have always operated in full transparency and we welcome any questions or inquiries into our past or future. As a follow-up to the mediation we requested with TriMet at the City Hall conference, James, Susan, and Amy testified and asked for mediation at the TriMet Board of Directors meeting.



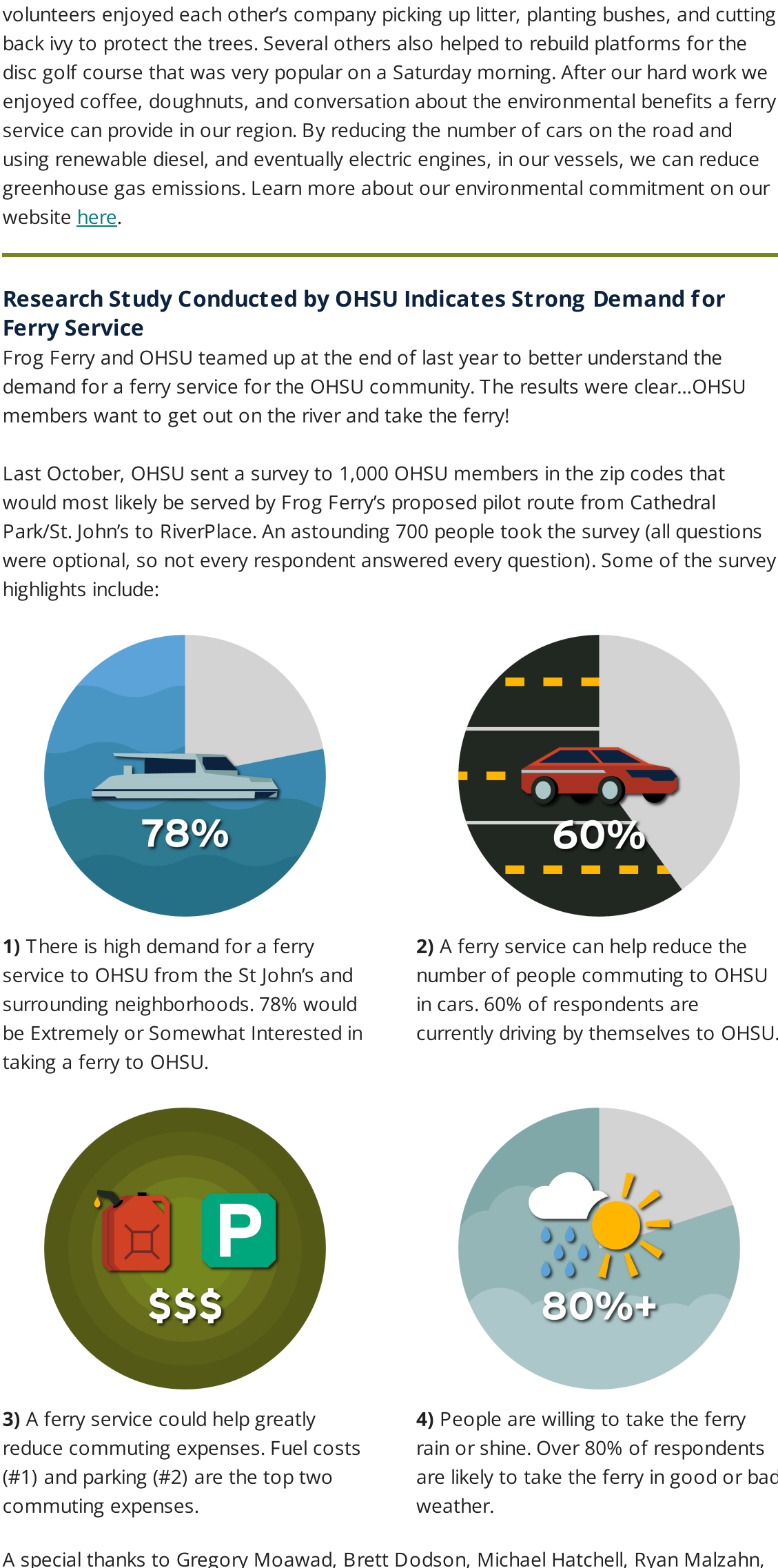
We were encouraged after that meeting as General Manager of TriMet, Sam Desue, both privately and publicly committed to getting a meeting together with our teams. We are appreciative of TriMet's intentions to the table and hope that we will be able to find a path forward so that we can focus on the future of a ferry service in the Portland - Vancouver region.

We thank all of you for being on this journey with us, and we promise we are doing everything we can to keep our project moving forward. We hope there are more sunny days ahead for Frog Ferry as we head into summer.



Thank you to our corporate sponsors!

Frog Ferry is pleased to announce sponsorship from PGE and Schnitzer Steel. Both companies acknowledge the value in bringing an alternate green mode of transit to our region. We are grateful for the financial contributions of these organizations, as well as the time and partnership of its employees. We hope to be able to bring Schnitzer Steel employees back and forth from St. Johns to downtown Portland on our pilot route, as well as work with PGE to build electric charging infrastructure for our vessels at full-scale, electrified operations. Thank you for your support!



The Frog Ferry team came together with friends and family to clean up Pier Park with SOLVE to commemorate Earth month. Pictured (from left to right): Chris Hale, Susan Bladholm, Paul Snyder, Amy Snyder, Naureen Khan, Spencer Morrison, Carol Meckes

Earth Day

Earth Day presented another opportunity for the Frog Ferry team to go green and help give back to our community and environment. We teamed up with SOLVE on Saturday, April 23 to clean up Pier Park in N. Portland, where the sun was shining and volunteers enjoyed each other's company picking up litter, planting bushes, and cutting back ivy to protect the trees. Several others also helped to rebuild platforms for the disc golf course that was very popular on a Saturday morning. After our hard work we enjoyed coffee, doughnuts, and conversation about the environmental benefits a ferry service can provide in our region. By reducing the number of cars on the road and using renewable gas diesel, and eventually electric engines, in our vessels, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more about our environmental commitment on our website [here](#).

Research Study Conducted by OHSU Indicates Strong Demand for Ferry Service

Frog Ferry and OHSU teamed up at the end of last year to better understand the demand for a ferry service for the OHSU community. The results were clear...OHSU members want to get out on the river and take the ferry!

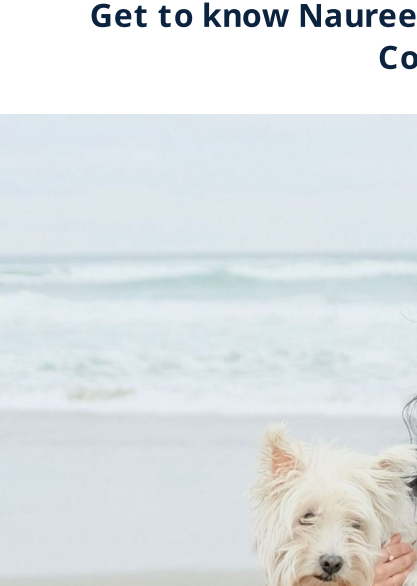
Last October, OHSU sent a survey to 1,000 OHSU members in the zip codes that would most likely be served by Frog Ferry's proposed pilot route from Cathedral Park/St. John's to RiverPlace. An astounding 700 people took the survey (all questions were optional, so not every respondent answered every question). Some of the survey highlights include:



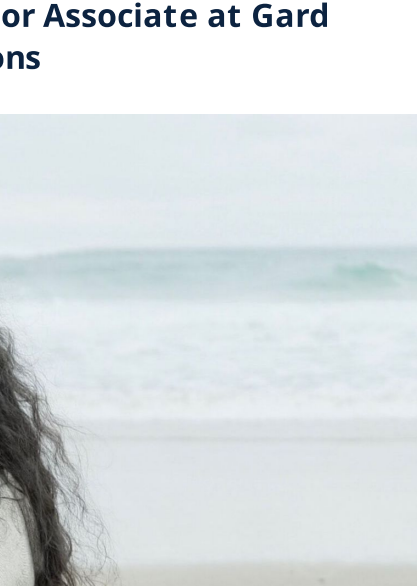
1) There is high demand for a ferry service to OHSU from the St John's and surrounding neighborhoods. 78% would be Extremely or Somewhat Interested in taking a ferry to OHSU.



2) A ferry service can help reduce the number of people commuting to OHSU in cars. 60% of respondents are currently driving by themselves to OHSU.



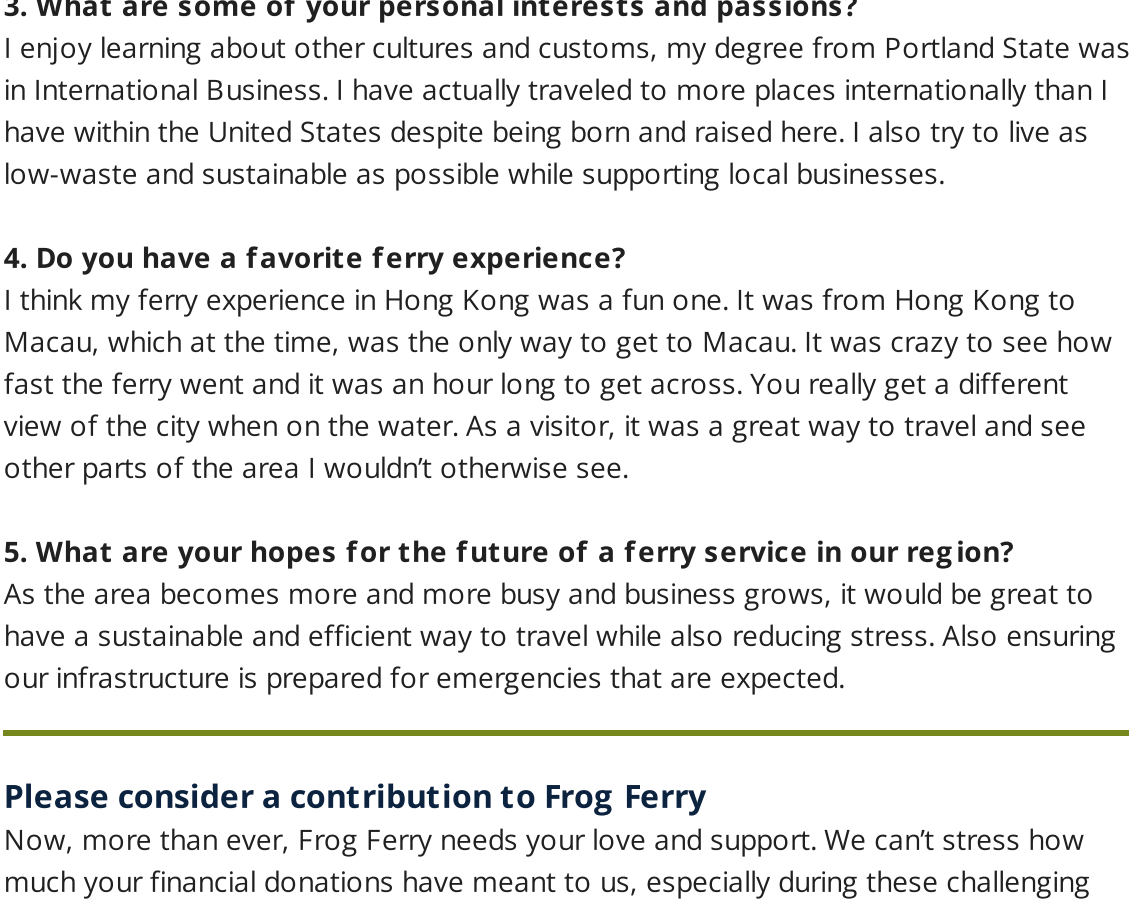
3) A ferry service could help greatly reduce commuting expenses. Fuel costs (#1) and parking (#2) are the top two commuting expenses.



4) People are willing to take the ferry rain or shine. Over 80% of respondents are likely to take the ferry in good or bad weather.

A special thanks to Gregory Moawad, Brett Dodson, Michael Hatchell, Ryan Malzahn, Lawrence Furnstahl, John Landolfe, and Michael Harrison at OHSU for working with us, fielding the study, and analyzing the results. We appreciate your partnership and hope that we can make the ferry a reality to better serve your employees and patients.

Volunteer Spotlight: Get to know Naureen Khan, Senior Associate at Gard Communications



At Friends of Frog Ferry, we are fortunate to have many volunteers dedicate their professional expertise and personal passions to bringing a passenger ferry service to our region. This month's Volunteer Spotlight features Naureen Khan, a communications associate with Gard Communications who also oversees Frog Ferry's contact management and social media channels. Despite Frog Ferry compensating Naureen for her contact management work, many other countless hours are spent as a volunteer organizing our social posts, team events, and additional marketing initiatives.

- 1. Why were you drawn to Frog Ferry?**
After my field study in Japan to learn more about earthquake preparedness and resiliency, I realized that the Metro-area is ill-prepared for when the "big one" strikes. Particularly, how to transport people when the bridges go down. In addition to my emergency preparedness lens, Frog Ferry also addresses issues important to me as an Oregon native such as improving transportation, sustainability, tourism and local cultural awareness.
- 2. What role do you play on the team?**
Currently I am the Social Media & Contact Manager, I content plan and maintain our social media presence as well as ensure we have an up to date contact list for our community outreach efforts. As with many start-ups, there are always many hats one wears so I also jump in where the team needs me such as with event planning or marketing material creation.
- 3. What are some of your personal interests and passions?**
I enjoy learning about other cultures and customs, my degree from Portland State was in International Business. I have actually traveled to more places internationally than I have within the United States despite being born and raised here. I also try to live as low-waste and sustainable as possible while supporting local businesses.
- 4. Do you have a favorite ferry experience?**
I think my ferry experience in Hong Kong was a fun one. It was from Hong Kong to Macau, which at the time, was the only way to get to Macau. It was crazy to see how fast the ferry went and it was an hour long to get across. You really get a different view of the city when on the water. As a visitor, it was a great way to travel and see other parts of the area I wouldn't otherwise see.
- 5. What are your hopes for the future of a ferry service in our region?**
As the area becomes more and more busy and business grows, it would be great to have a sustainable and efficient way to travel while also reducing stress. Also ensuring our infrastructure is prepared for emergencies that are expected.

Please consider a contribution to Frog Ferry

Now, more than ever, Frog Ferry needs your love and support. We can't stress how much your financial donations have meant to us, especially during these challenging times. They have allowed us to pay our bills, engage talented professionals, and keep us in the journey to put a boat on the water. Additionally, please call or write City Council members and legislative representatives in your district, and ask them to support Frog Ferry. That's all you really need to say, "Please support Frog Ferry's initiative to bring a green mode of transit to our region." Together our voices are stronger than any one.

Donate

