



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 16, 2023

DES MOINES FERRY SERVICE CANCELLED

We are incredibly disappointed that the high speed ferry, *Billie J*, scheduled to service our Des Moines-Seattle route, has experienced a catastrophic mechanical failure while underway to Des Moines from San Francisco. The expected repair time is approximately 12 weeks and due to this lengthy delay, and the unavailability of alternate vessels, which have already been committed to other routes, the City will be unable to provide ferry service for our community this summer.

The ferry owner was responsible for providing the vessel in a timely manner and in good condition. We are all truly disappointed this was not possible.

We appreciate the support of King County Water Taxi who was providing the dock in Seattle and our developing relationship with Maritime High School to provide an Ambassador/Intern program for Maritime High School students to participate in the ferry operations. We will keep these partnerships in place for future ferry service.

High-speed passenger ferry service has proven to be a very innovative, multi-modal transportation option for our City. This situation, disappointing as it is, in no way impedes our commitment and enthusiasm to provide passenger ferry service in the future.

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The Waterland City