



King County Water Taxi West Seattle/Downtown Seattle Route Launches April 5, 2009

The King County Ferry District will host a kick-off celebration for the King County Water Taxi's West Seattle/ Downtown Seattle route on April 5, 2009.

- Ride the West Seattle/Downtown route for free, all day!
- Enjoy live entertainment and family activities at Seacrest Park (noon to 2 p.m.)
- Snack on delicious food and beverages provided by local businesses
- Go home with free posters and squeeze toys, and enter a drawing to win an Argosy Cruise
- Meet and greet your neighbors, local business owners, and King County Ferry District Board members

Regular King County Water Taxi service on the West Seattle/Seattle route will start nearly one month early, running from April 5 – October 31, 2009. Additional improvements include:

- A new look for the Sightseer vessel, free shuttles, and signs and materials
- Free shuttles serve two routes, with separate route numbers, (773 serves West Seattle Junction; 775 serves the Admiral District and Alki Avenue SW) making it easier for riders to get to their final destination
- Improved signage makes shuttle service more identifiable and visible
- King County Water Taxi vessels will accept ORCA cards along with other fare passes
- 2010 plans include: operating the West Seattle/Downtown route year-round, a new vessel for the West Seattle route, and improvements at Seacrest Park including a longer gangway, new concrete floats and a change in docking-orientation

In April 2007, the King County Ferry District was formed to expand transportation options through passenger ferry services. The Ferry District provides funding for services operated under the name King County Water Taxi.

The King County Water Taxi currently serves two passenger ferry routes:

- West Seattle (Seacrest Dock) / Downtown Seattle (Pier 55) [Previously the Elliott Bay Water Taxi]
- Vashon Island (Vashon Ferry Terminal) / Downtown Seattle (Pier 50) [Previously funded by Washington State Ferries]

The King County Water Taxi will add demonstration services to other communities in King County in the near future.

Additional information about King County Water Taxi Service and the King County Ferry District is available online at: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/water-taxi/kcwt.html> and <http://www.kingcountyferries.org>.