

Washington State Ferries' long-range plan includes plug-in hybrid electric vessels

Washington State Ferries (WSF) is a division of the State Department of Transportation. WSF's 2040 long-range plan is to increase the fleet from 23 to 26 vessels and shift most of the fleet to plug-in hybrid electric vessels. Statute requires WSF to use design-build contracting methods for new ferries.

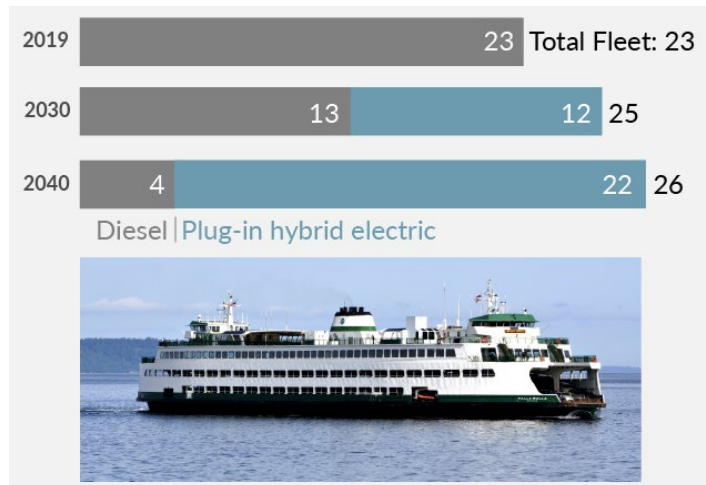
2022 Supplemental Transportation Budget changed focus of JLARC's review

The 2021 Transportation Budget included a JLARC study of WSF's contract and cost estimates used for the first Olympic-class hybrid electric vessel. That procurement has since been delayed. As a result, the 2022 Supplemental Transportation Budget changed the study to focus on the design-build contracting approach for all classes of hybrid electric ferries, best practices, and opportunities for cost and operational efficiencies.

This study will evaluate WSF's design-build contracting practices and policies

JLARC staff are working with consultants who have relevant expertise to answer the following questions:

1. What are WSF's policies and practices for procuring new hybrid-electric ferries through design-build contracts?
 - a. Are WSF's policies and practices consistent with state and federal statutes and regulations?
2. How do WSF's policies and practices for design-build contracts for hybrid-electric ferries compare to domestic and international best practices?
 - a. Are there best practices for addressing other related requirements or interests, such as build local requirements or use of small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses?
 - b. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these best practices, including potential costs or savings?
3. What design-build contracting best practices or industry standards can be used to decrease vessel construction costs or ensure operational efficiencies?
 - a. Do WSF's cost management practices align with industry best practices, domestically and internationally, or other appropriate standards?



WSF 2040 Long-range plan



Study Timeframe

Preliminary Report: June 2023

Proposed Final Report: September 2023

Study Team

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JLARC Study Process

