



KINGSTON COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 9, 2026

TO: Honorable Jake Fey, House Transportation Committee Chairman

Re: KCAC Support for Downtown Kingston Trash Management Proposal

Dear Mr. Fey,

The Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC), in its role as liaison between the unincorporated town of Kingston and Kitsap County, would like to share our support for the request by the Kingston Stakeholders for financial support of the proposed Downtown Kingston Trash Management proposal.

Council members laud the efforts of the Stakeholders and all involved with the installation and maintenance of trash cans in our central village shopping area that encounters so much tourist traffic from the ferry holding lot.

Attached you will find a detailed report and request from the Kingston Stakeholders.

KCAC respectfully request your support and participation with this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

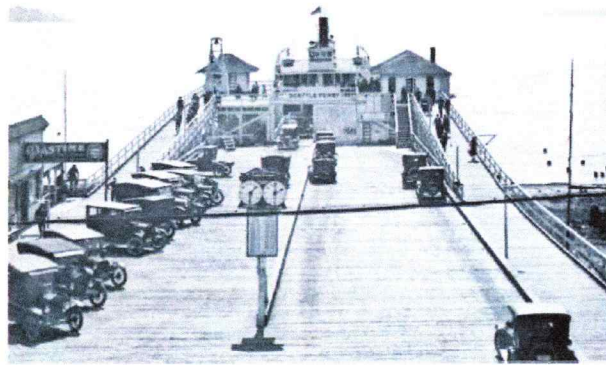
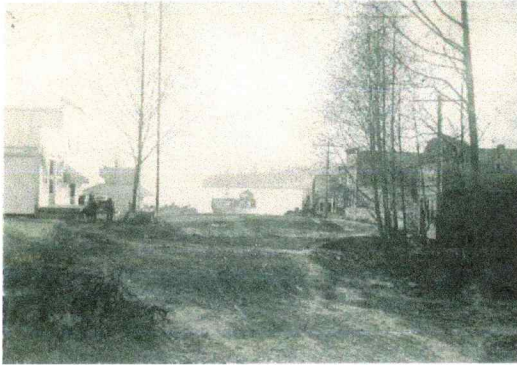
Sincerely,

KCAC Co-Chairs, Tim Davis & Glen Hutchinson

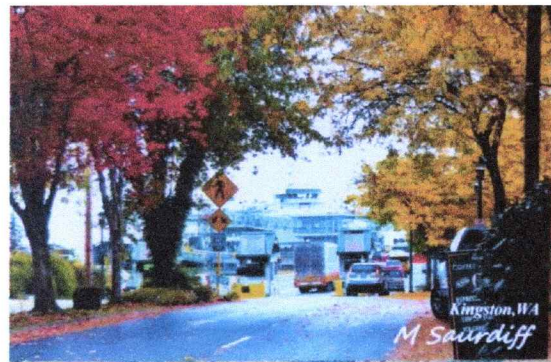
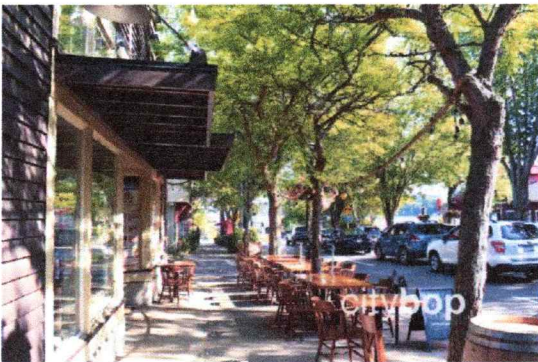
cc: Commissioner Christine Rolfes
Commissioner Oran Root
Commissioner Katie Walters
Representative Greg Nance
John Vezina, Washington State Ferries
Kingston Port Commissioner Steve Heacock
Kingston Port Commissioner Mary McClure
Kingston Port Commissioner Laura Gronnvoll
Nancy Langwith, Chairperson Kingston Stakeholders

Inviting Washington State Ferries to Join Kingston's Community Partnership to Help Downtown Thrive

Kingston has been a proud little ferry village since the late 1880s, when the mosquito fleet docked at the end of Kingston's dirt Main Street.



Car ferry service began in 1923, and over time has grown in importance to the region and the State. Our unincorporated village of 2,700 people serves **two million vehicles** per year, and, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation, it is the **second-busiest vehicle route** in the Washington State Ferries system, handling over **3.8 million total riders** annually.



The ferry holding dock is located directly at the end of our two-block Main Street, and we are grateful for the opportunities that millions of travelers who pass through our Downtown provide. However, the huge volume of people and cars results in challenges of congestion and trash. Kingston is unincorporated, and with our extremely limited small-town resources we struggle to implement strategies to mitigate the challenges and benefit from the opportunities.

Our Downtown has been suffering economically, so we have been working locally on strategies to better serve Washington State Ferry customers, attract people from the local community, support local businesses, and provide a quality experience for everyone.

An exciting first step has been the launch of the Washington State Ferries Automated Traffic Management System (ATMS), which will reduce congestion Downtown. Encouraged by this project, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Kingston Stakeholders, local businesses, and the Port of Kingston have been looking at options for trash, maintenance of common areas including sidewalks and bikelanes, and parking signage.

Kingston Stakeholders has led an effort to provide trash and litter pick up in public spaces in Downtown Kingston. There are no trash cans in Downtown currently as there is no service to empty them. During the summer, the Port empties the trash cans on its property twice a day and sometimes more, and we anticipate the need for similar service in Downtown to cope with the volume of litter, disproportionately generated by WSF patrons. The Port is legally unable to engage in trash collection off of its property.

We had originally hoped this Downtown trash effort could be supported by volunteers, similar to most other Kingston projects like the downtown flower baskets and the Highway 104 median beautification. Due to the physical nature of the work, the need for consistency, and biohazard risks, we determined that using volunteers was not safe or feasible. Potential solutions for professional trash pickup were more costly than anticipated. We contacted two potential vendors to annually service five trash cans and the cost ranged from \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year.

This cost was not feasible, so we went back to our partners and developed a pilot project to build proof of concept, awareness, and enthusiasm. The Port is installing trash cans at Kiwanis Park, which overlooks the ferry holding dock, and is donating trash cans for use Downtown. The Kingston Chamber and Stakeholders have worked with three Downtown property owners and businesses who have agreed to empty the trash cans this summer and pay for the trash pickup as a trial period so we can estimate demand. This has put a heavy burden on our small businesses for labor and costs that we cannot maintain in the long run.

We continue to look for funding to develop a sustainable long-term effort to support the economic opportunities in Downtown Kingston. We are exploring a mix of resources including local businesses, sponsorships, grants, the Port, and a business improvement district. We hope that Washington State Ferries will be a partner, to both help mitigate the challenges of being a tiny village with a big ferry presence and to help us realize the opportunities. We are submitting a proposal asking for \$80,000 per year to support our partnership efforts for trash collection and public area maintenance/beautification. This would cover the projected cost of the trash removal annually, along with part-time seasonal labor costs managed by the Greater Kingston Chamber to oversee the trash can program, additional support around holidays and busy weekends, and basic maintenance around public access areas near WSF infrastructure (like cutting back invasives from encroaching on the sidewalk or bike lane).

Recognizing how important a clean, attractive town is to your customers and ours, this proposal is supported by the Kingston Stakeholders, Greater Kingston Community Chamber of Commerce, Port of Kingston, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Noo-Kayet Development Corporation, Kingston-North Kitsap Rotary, Kingston Kiwanis Club, and the Village Green Foundation.

Please join us in making the ferry experience in Kingston the very best that it can be!

Nancy Langwith,
Chair, Kingston Stakeholders