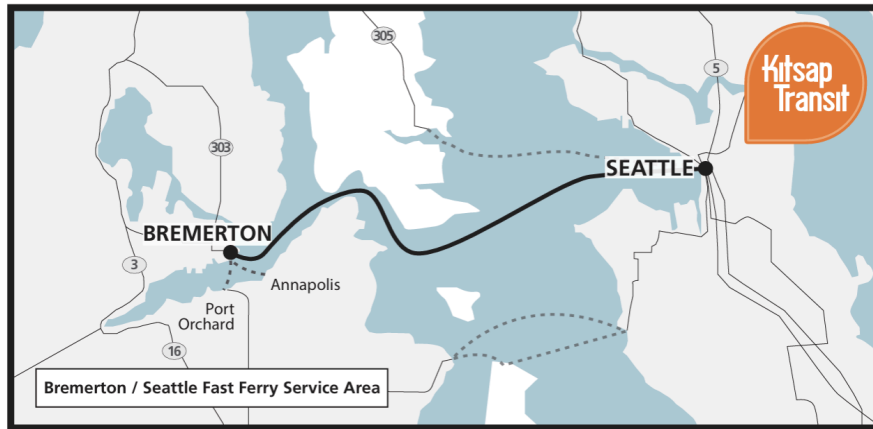


Attachment #2: Case Study 2 - Kitsap Fast Ferries (Bremerton/Seattle, WA Service)

Introduction to Kitsap Transit - Kitsap Fast Ferries (Bremerton/Seattle)

Kitsap Fast Ferries is a passenger-only, high-speed ferry service operated by the Kitsap Transit Agency in the state of Washington (Kitsap Transit). The ferries are a vital service for connecting the suburbs of Bremerton, Kingston, and Southworth to downtown Seattle. The suburb of Bremerton is located on the Kitsap peninsula, which is 65.2 miles away via the fastest land and bridge highway route. Utilizing the Kitsap Fast Ferries service, the distance traveled is reduced to 16 miles (Google Maps).



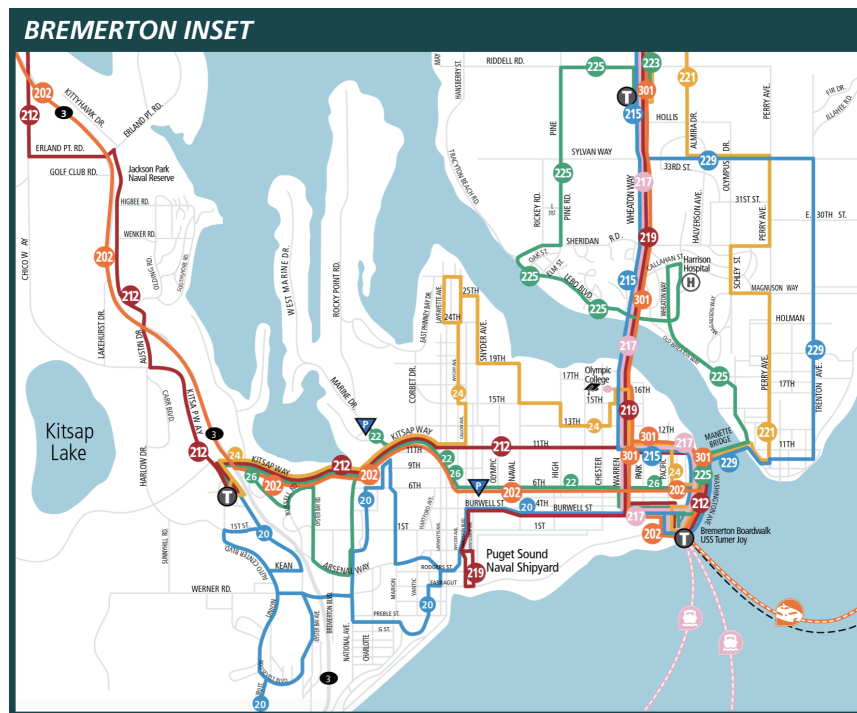
Bremerton/Seattle Service Map

The Bremerton Fast Ferry service operates Monday through Saturday from 4:40 AM to 10:10 PM on weekdays and 10:50 AM to 9:00 PM on Saturday (*Bremerton/Seattle Ferry Timetable*). The service takes approximately 30 minutes to cross the Puget Sound and dock at Seattle's Pier 50. Utilizing the fastest land and bridge route on WA-16 E and I-5 N would take 1 hour and 8 minutes in total (Google Maps). Kitsap Fast Ferries saves around 40 minutes of a commute into Seattle's downtown core.

Kitsap Fast Ferries first began service in July 2017 with the Bremerton/Seattle service and has been serving the region ever since. The Bremerton/Seattle service has a 40-45 minute headway and operates vessels that travel at 34-37 knots. Kitsap Transit is integrated into the Seattle region's transit service card system, ORCA, and also offers monthly passes for frequent users to use for payment and an option for employer coverage of transit fees. Both sides of the service, Bremerton and Seattle, are heavily integrated with other public transportation forms; Seattle's Pier 50 has 7 bus connections with 2 rapid bus lines, while Bremerton Transportation Center has 13 bus connections (Google Maps). In 2024, Kitsap Fast Ferries carried over 850,000 passengers on 3 routes (Kitsap Transit).

WEEKDAYS			
Bremerton to Seattle (Eastbound)		Seattle to Bremerton (Westbound)	
Depart Bremerton Ferry Dock	Arrive Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Depart Pier 50 Seattle Ferry Dock	Arrive Bremerton Ferry Dock
AM 4:40	AM 5:10	AM 5:20	AM 5:50
5:25	5:55	6:05	6:35
6:05	6:35	6:45	7:15
6:45	7:15	7:25	7:55
7:25	7:55	8:00	8:30
8:05	8:35	8:40	9:10
8:35	9:05	9:10	9:40
9:15	9:45	9:50	10:20
9:50	10:20	10:25	10:55
10:25	10:55	11:00	11:30
PM 1:50	PM 2:20	PM 2:25	PM 2:55
3:05	3:35	3:45	4:15
3:45	4:15	4:25	4:55
4:25	4:55	5:05	5:35
5:00	5:30	5:40	6:10
5:45	6:15	6:25	6:55
6:20	6:50	7:00	7:30
7:05	7:35	7:40	8:10
7:40	8:10	8:20	8:50
9:00	9:30	9:40	10:10

Bremerton/Seattle Ferry Timetable



Bremerton Transportation Center (T) Bus Connectivity

Currently, the full fare for Kitsap Transit Fast Ferries is \$2 eastbound (to Seattle) and \$12 westbound (to Kitsap Peninsula suburbs). With the Kitsap Transit Monthly Trip Passes, the Fast Ferry is \$196 per month. With a roundtrip price of \$14, the Monthly Pass is equivalent to 14 trips across the Puget Sound. For those qualifying for a reduced fare, the price is half of the full fare: \$1 and \$6, respectively. This includes individuals with a valid Medicare card, Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP), or any low-income passengers already receiving reduced fares via ORCA.

Kitsap Fast Ferries also allows free rides for any personal care attendants, children/youth under 18, and public safety officers (Kitsap Transit).

Kitsap Transit's Fast Ferries is not the only ferry service provider in the Puget Sound region. The largest ferry provider is the Washington State Department of Transportation's Washington State Ferries. These ferries are notably different as the entire fleet has larger ferries and provides both auto and passenger transit across water (WSDOT). This is another choice for individuals commuting via car.

Importance to the Berkeley Space Center Project

The Kitsap Fast Ferry from Bremerton to Seattle is a prime example of a well connected, established, and utilized public ferry service in the United States that prioritizes interconnectivity of multiple modes of transit. As a passenger-only service, passengers may drive and park at the ferry terminals or take advantage of the multiple bus lines that stop at the terminals on either side of the Puget Sound. The downtown core of Seattle also hosts many employment opportunities where commuters utilize Kitsap Fast Ferries as a public transit option to and from work.

This case study is important to the Berkeley Space Center (BSC) project as the SF Bay Ferry System is also a passenger-only ferry service that has similar connectivity on both sides of the bay for existing terminals. As the project plans to take advantage of the new Redwood City Ferry Terminal, the location of both BSC and the ferry terminal mirrors the importance of Seattle as an employment hub; Silicon Valley, the location of BSC and the ferry terminal, is the technology hub of the world. Not only will Berkeley affiliates be able to utilize the SF Bay Ferry to commute to BSC, but workers located in the East Bay will also have the opportunity to commute to the countless tech companies in the area via ferry.

S.W.O.C. Analysis

Strengths

- Kitsap Fast Ferries, such as the Bremerton/Seattle service, mirror the SF Bay Ferry system and the transportation option it provides to passengers commuting to and from the downtown core and employment hub of Seattle, WA.
- Ferry service is widely available and utilized in the Puget Sound region, with 12 different services available. Kitsap Fast Ferries is one of two passenger-only services connecting Seattle to other cities within the region.
- Kitsap Fast Ferries is interconnected with public transportation as both terminals can accommodate bus and other transit connections. The service is also incorporated into the region's transit card service, ORCA.

Weaknesses

- The Bremerton/Seattle route covers a shorter distance to Seattle as the central Puget Sound is not as large of a body of water.
- Kitsap Fast Ferries only provides a Monday-Friday/Saturday service as a publicly voted tax adjustment to support the system could not support a service 7 days a week.

- According to Kitsap Transit, malfunctions of the fast-ferries and a lack of available spare vessels to support the routes have occurred, leading to higher rates of cancellations in 2024.
- Kitsap Fast Ferries accommodates about half of the number of passengers of SF Bay Ferry and provides half the number of routes.

Opportunities

- SF Bay Ferry and Kitsap Fast Ferries share very similar characteristics in the services they provide. This includes:
 - Regional transit card integration
 - Option for employer coverage of employee transit fees
 - Passenger-only, high-speed service
 - Connection to employment hubs
 - Bus connectivity at ferry terminals
- BSC has the opportunity to look at Kitsap Fast Ferries as a foundation for the type of service expected from a partnership with SF Bay Ferry.
 - UC Berkeley BayPass, if instated, covers transit fees for students and Berkeley employees. Otherwise, BSC may cover transit fees for students and Berkeley employees.
 - SF Bay Ferry plans to provide all-electric and high-speed ferry service throughout the entire system by 2050. The ferries already accommodate passenger-only travel.
 - BSC is located in Silicon Valley, a major employment hub in the Bay Area. Utilization of the SF Bay Ferry system will make transit to BSC and other companies easier for those located in Berkeley, Oakland, and other cities in the East Bay.
 - The ferry terminals for Kitsap Fast Ferries accommodate bus service. The new Redwood City Ferry Terminal that will be incorporated into the SF Bay Ferry System should accommodate bus service so BSC can provide a direct shuttle service to and from the terminal and the BSC campus.

Challenges

- Ferry transit to BSC will be a longer distance and time than the Bremerton/Seattle service by Kitsap Fast Ferries.
 - The distance between the terminals within the SF Bay is about 10 miles longer than the distance between the terminals within the Puget Sound (Google Earth). The ease of access between Oakland/Redwood City, when compared to Bremerton/Seattle, may be overstated.
 - The current vessels utilized by Kitsap Fast Ferries are not electrified and faster than the new vessels that the SF Bay Ferry System plans to utilize on all routes.
- The unreliability of ferry transit seen in Kitsap Fast Ferries
 - If SF Bay Ferry faces similar issues of a lack of spare vessels and general malfunctions, it may become an unreliable transit option for BSC as seen with Kitsap Fast Ferries and the potential cancellation of trips. SF Bay Ferry must have a sufficient number of spare vessels to ensure reliability for BSC to utilize the ferry as the main transportation option, especially being a larger system.

Overall Recommendations

Kitsap Fast Ferries (Bremerton/Seattle service) serves as a valid case study and potential for the SF Bay Ferry system as the Seattle-area ferry provides rapid transit across the Puget Sound, saving commuters around 40 minutes of driving. Both systems are passenger-only and operate a similar fleet of vessels. Berkeley Space Center should utilize the operations and system design of Kitsap Fast Ferries as a comparable system as a recommendation tool for how the SF Bay Ferry system should operate to accommodate the Berkeley affiliates transiting the San Francisco Bay to Silicon Valley. This includes the timing of headways and ability of the new Redwood City terminal to allow bus transit connectivity. BSC should continue to support SF Bay Ferry's participation in the UC Berkeley BayPass program or develop a separate partnership for Berkeley affiliates to have ferry costs subsidized by BSC. Lastly, BSC should hold SF Bay Ferry accountable to possess spare vessels in the case that the new, all-electric ferries face any technical challenges.

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