



# Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements

Round 2 Public Consultation  
February 19 – March 30, 2018  
Discussion Guide and Feedback Form  
[gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal)



# We Want to Hear from You Again

In 2016, the Province consulted with ferry users and area residents and businesses about the potential relocation of the Balfour Ferry Terminal. As a result of the feedback we received, we committed that the terminal will continue to operate at its existing location with needed improvements.

Round 2 of public consultation for the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements is being held from **February 19 to March 30, 2018**. We want your input on proposed improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry and Balfour Ferry Terminal area.

This Discussion Guide provides information about temporary service changes to ensure safe and reliable crossings during low spring water levels, related minor dredging to shallow areas in the channel between the lake and the Balfour Ferry Terminal, replacement of the MV Balfour with a new vessel and other proposed improvements. It also includes a Feedback Form so you can provide your input on proposed changes to the Balfour Ferry Terminal including:

- Improving queueing safety
- Increasing parking capacity
- New public washrooms
- Greenspace options

There is also an opportunity for additional comments.



Please see page 13 for the Feedback Form, or complete it online at

**[gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal)**.

*Scan this QR code for more information.*

## PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND LEARN MORE

- Attend a Public Open House or Small Group Meeting
- Read the Discussion Guide and complete the Feedback Form online: **[gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal)**
- Provide a written submission or send us a completed hard copy Feedback Form:
  - › By email: **[balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca)**
  - › By mail:  
Attn: Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements,  
MoTI – Marine Branch,  
PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

## HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

Your feedback is important to us. Input received through this public consultation will be compiled and considered by the ministry, along with technical, environmental and financial considerations, in refining and finalizing the improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry and Balfour Ferry Terminal area.

### PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

Drop-in, no RSVP required.

**Tuesday, February 27**

**5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, MT**

Crawford Bay School –  
16150 Walkley Rd., Crawford Bay

**Wednesday, February 28**

**5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, PT**

Redfish Elementary School –  
265 Bryan Rd., Nelson

### SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Small group meetings are scheduled for two hours. Please register in advance by emailing **[balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca)**, as space is limited.

**Tuesday, February 27**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, MT**

Cabin Restaurant – 16898 Scott Rd., Kootenay Bay

**Wednesday, February 28**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, PT**

Dock 'n' Duck – 7924 Hwy BC-3A, Balfour

# Discussion Guide & Feedback Form

1. The front section (pages 4 to 11 edged in yellow) includes information related to ferry service improvements. This section contains topics including:

- **Temporary service changes**
  - › Low spring water levels
  - › Temporary weight restrictions and use of the MV Balfour
  - › Tips to help you plan ahead
- **Minor dredging of shallow areas in the channel between the lake and the Balfour Ferry Terminal**
  - › Study findings
  - › Environmental mitigation measures
  - › Regulations and permitting
  - › Timeline
- **New ferry to replace MV Balfour**
  - › Right-sizing the Kootenay Lake ferries
  - › Review of investigation into electric propulsion options
  - › Timeline for replacement
- **Relocation of Balfour Ferry Terminal transit stop**
  - › New bus-only lane
  - › New bus shelter
- **Closure of Upper Balfour Road**
  - › Highway safety improvements

2. The back section (pages 13 to 19 edged in blue) describes proposed changes to the Balfour Ferry Terminal on which we are seeking feedback. These topics include:

- **Improving queueing safety**
- **Increasing parking capacity**
- **New public washrooms**
- **Greenspace options**

This section also includes an opportunity to provide additional comments and to sign-up for information updates.





**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO BALFOUR FERRY TERMINAL AREA**

*Artist's rendering – subject to change*

*For alternative proposed improvements and to provide feedback, turn to pages 13 to 19 edged in blue.*

# About the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements

In 2016, the Province of B.C. held a round of public consultation to explore alternatives to address several challenges with the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service. The narrow and shallow navigation channel in the West Arm of Kootenay Lake has caused damage to the propeller and hull of the MV Osprey over time and impacts the safe, normal operation of the ferry during seasonal low spring water levels. Additionally, ferry and highway traffic have increased to the point that the existing Balfour Ferry Terminal is experiencing increased capacity pressures, impacting its ability to service peak demand safely and efficiently. The aging MV Balfour is scheduled to be replaced in 2022.

The Province held an initial round of public consultation to explore these considerations, share results of technical studies and explore alternatives to address these challenges, including potentially relocating the Balfour Ferry Terminal to a new location at Queens Bay or making improvements at the existing terminal and addressing challenges with the current service.

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## What We Heard in Round 1 Consultation

There were a total of 3,011 participant interactions during the public consultation held from **June 15 to October 6, 2016**:

- 300+ people attended the June Open House
- 35 people attended four stakeholder engagement meetings
- 1,766 questionnaires submitted
- 237 unique emails and mail responses submitted
- 673 postcards submitted

**A significant majority—76% of participants—indicated they favoured the Balfour Ferry Terminal location over the Queens Bay location** because of the significant local community and businesses that would be affected if the terminal moved, and to avoid negative environmental and recreational impacts at Queens Bay.

When asked what amenities are most important for a new or expanded ferry terminal:

- 72% ranked “public washrooms” as first or second most important
- “Public parking” and “transit stop” were the next highest preference at 42%

**In November 2016, the Province announced its commitment to retain the terminal at Balfour and undertake further work to improve safety and reliability for ferry users.**

The complete Consultation Summary Report was published in February 2017 and is available at [gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal).

## The Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements – Phase 2 Work

To support the Province's commitment to retain the existing Balfour Ferry Terminal location, the ministry has identified temporary service changes during low spring water levels, and proposed long-term improvements to the terminal and the nearby channel to ensure ongoing safe and reliable service for ferry users.

### TEMPORARY SERVICE CHANGES FOR SPRING 2018

The channel near the Balfour Ferry Terminal has three shallow areas that cause a navigational safety hazard for the MV Osprey during low spring water levels. During this time, the following temporary service changes are required:

- **March 11 to 24 and April 8 to 21, 2018 – Moderately Low Water Levels**

To ensure required clearance, the overall weight of the MV Osprey, which has a normal capacity of 80 vehicles, must be reduced. Depending on the number and weights of commercial vehicles boarding the vessel during this time, the number of vehicles may need to be limited, which might in some cases result in a sailing wait for vehicles.

- **March 25 to April 7, 2018 – Peak Low Water Levels**

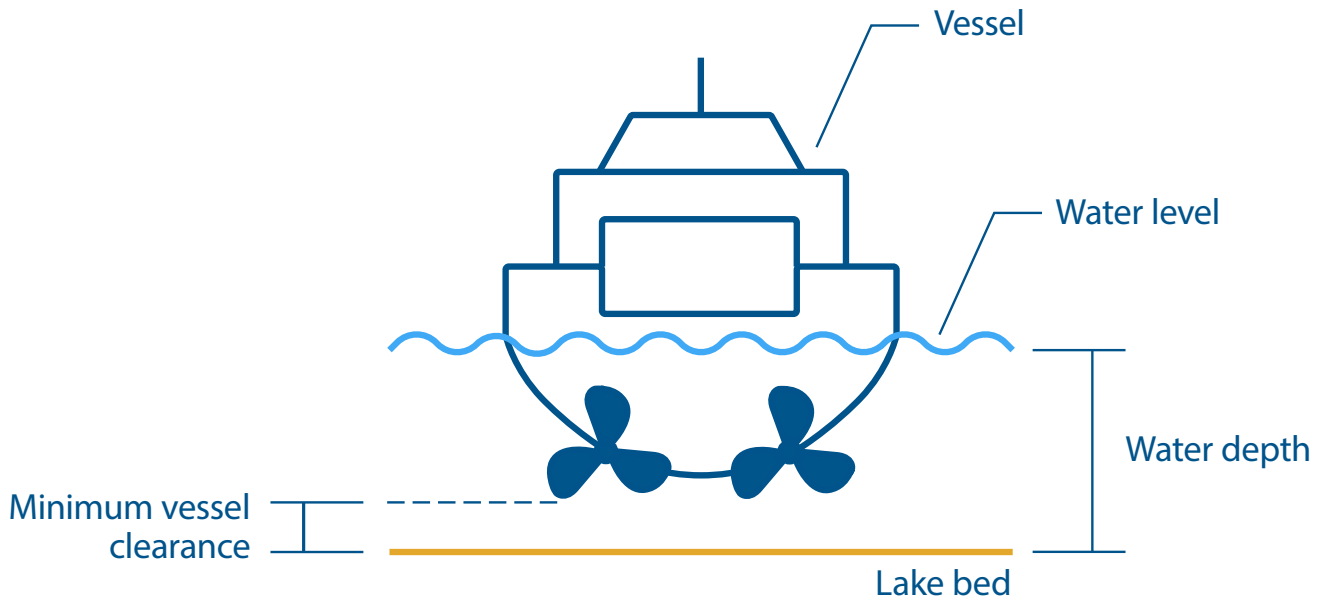
The MV Balfour, which carries 28 vehicles, will replace the MV Osprey during the lowest water levels. While out of operation, the MV Osprey will undergo a needed refit to avoid disruption later in the year. **If water levels are sufficient, and the MV Osprey refit is completed early, the Province will return the MV Osprey to service before April 7 to minimize service disruption.**

### PLAN AHEAD FOR SMOOTH SAILING

We hope to minimize sailing waits during these temporary service changes and apologize in advance for any inconvenience. We suggest travellers:

- **Go to Drive BC's updates** prior to travelling for up-to-the-minute information, ferry schedules and delays, and a highway cam showing the queue
- **Check the overhead message boards** in Creston and Nelson
- **Plan to arrive early** for the ferry
- **Allow time** for a potential sailing wait
- **Consider off-peak crossing times** before 9 am or after 5 pm if your travel plans allow
- **Take an alternate route** such as Highway 3
- **Help spread the word** to your friends and family about these changes

**CURRENT VESSEL CLEARANCE DURING LOW SPRING WATER LEVELS**



**2018 TEMPORARY SERVICE CHANGES**

	Feb 1 – Mar 10	Mar 11 – Mar 24	Mar 25 – Apr 7	Apr 8 – Apr 21	Apr 22 – Apr 30
M.V. Osprey (regular capacity)	■				■
M.V. Osprey (reduced capacity)		■		■	
M.V. Balfour			■		



## DREDGING LOCATIONS AND VESSEL CLEARANCE

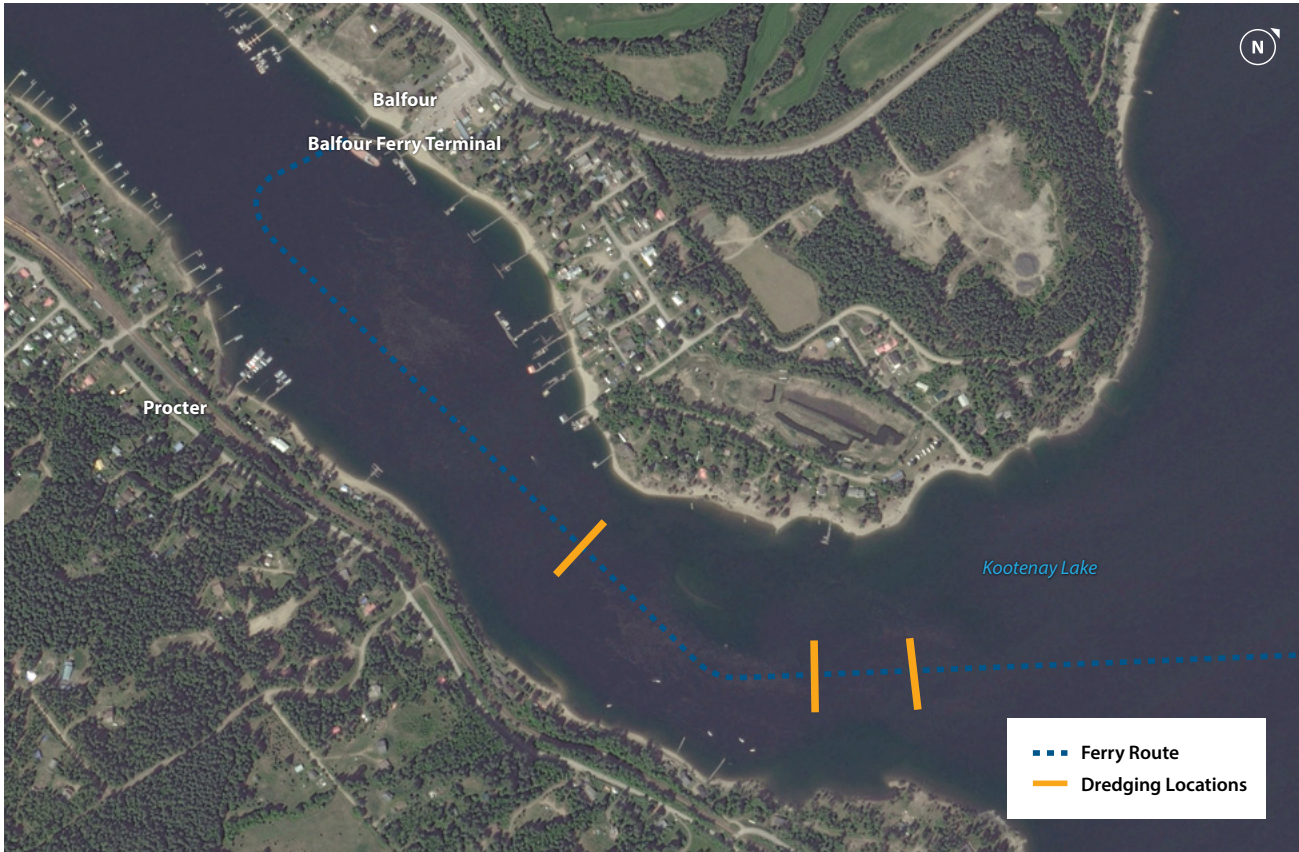


Figure 1: Dredging locations in the west arm

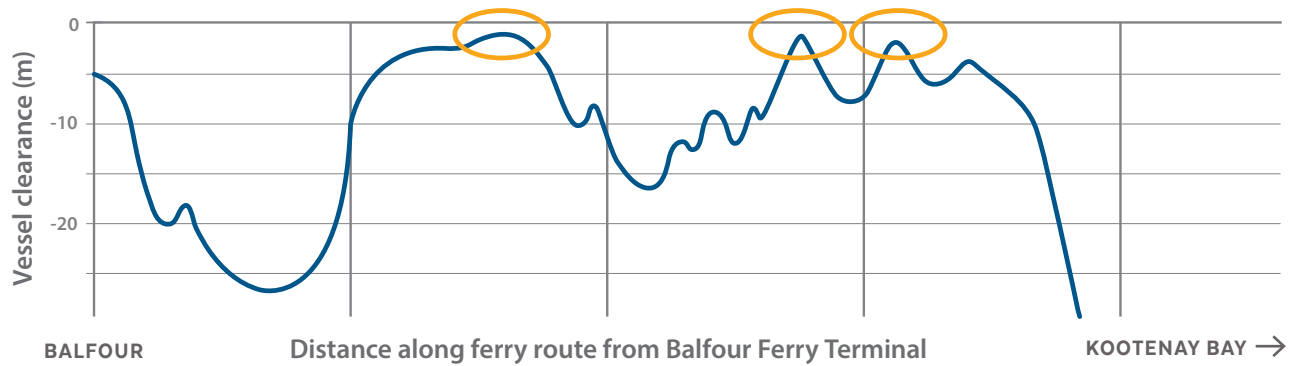


Figure 2: Vessel clearance through the west arm



**MINOR DREDGING TO AVOID FUTURE SERVICE CHANGES**

Recent depth surveys have identified three shallow areas in the channel that impact safe navigation through the west arm. To ensure ongoing safety and reliability, dredging is required at three shallow points in the channel between the lake and the Balfour Ferry Terminal (see figures 1 and 2 on page 8). Any material removed from these shallow areas could be relocated to hollows in the lake to ensure minimal disruption to the environment.

The Province is committed to completing this work in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and with minimal impact on the environment and habitat.

An environmental assessment will be undertaken and it is anticipated that this will be overseen by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Related information will be made available to the public at [gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal).

We are currently undertaking technical work to determine the best method and timing for this minor dredging, to ensure minimal environmental and ferry user impact. Once this technical work is completed, we will proceed with the regulatory permitting process and tendering of the dredging works. We expect to complete the work by the end of 2019 to avoid disruption during low water in the spring of 2020.

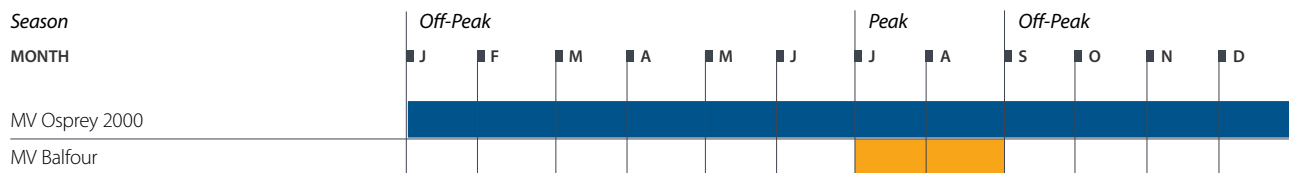
**NEW FERRY TO REPLACE MV BALFOUR BY 2022**

**Right-sizing the new ferry – More reliable and efficient service**

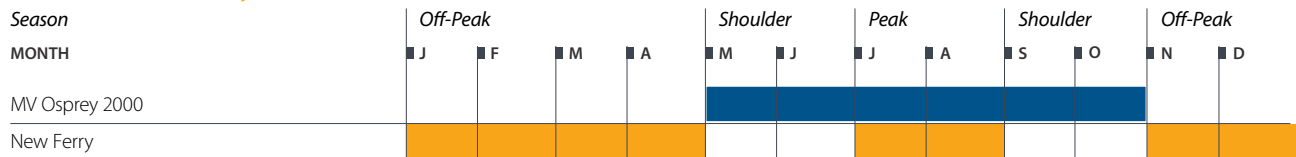
MV Balfour, with a capacity of 28 vehicles, was built in 1954 and needs to be replaced. In assessing the requirements for a new vessel, the ministry has tracked ferry user demand over ten years and determined that a new vessel with capacity of 50 to 60 vehicles would best meet demand during the winter off-peak season, and help significantly decrease sailing waits during the summer peak season.

Since demand for ferry service on Kootenay Lake varies widely over the year, the larger MV Osprey, with a capacity of 80 vehicles, isn't needed during winter months when demand is lower. The new vessel would provide reliable and more efficient service during the winter off-peak season. The MV Osprey would continue to be most efficient during spring and fall 'shoulder seasons', and both vessels would operate during the busiest summer peak season.

**Current Vessel Use**



**Vessel Use with New Ferry (2022)**



### Cleaner, greener technology

We are committed to doing our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the environment while meeting passenger service needs. To support this commitment, the ministry is reviewing various technology options, including alternative fuel and power sources for the new ferry.

While the skills, experience, and supplier base for electric ferry propulsion is evolving rapidly in Europe, the implementation of the technology in North America has not advanced at the same rate, leading the Province to proceed with interest and caution. New technology can be associated with performance risks and we want to ensure the reliability of our transportation system before we make this transition.

We will continue to explore greener options, but regardless of how the new vessel is powered, it will be more fuel efficient with less emissions than the existing 63-year-old MV Balfour. Even if the new replacement

vessel isn't fully electric when launched, it will be designed to accommodate conversion at a later date when low or zero-emission technology has been tested to meet local conditions and specifications.

The Province has a proven record of making practical, incremental improvements to our fleet when available technology supports the ongoing safe, reliable and efficient service our ferry users have come to expect. As an example, the Province's new cable ferries at Adams Lake and Glade, and soon to be delivered at Harrop and Arrow Park, are powered by on-board batteries which fully power the ferries while they are docked during off-peak hours. This has reduced noise at the terminal, and lowered greenhouse gas emissions.

We expect to begin a formal procurement process for the new ferry in early 2019 and anticipate its launch in the fall of 2022.



*Artist's rendering of proposed new vessel – subject to change*



Artist's rendering of proposed new bus lane and Upper Balfour Road closure – subject to change



### RELOCATION OF BALFOUR FERRY TERMINAL TRANSIT STOP

The location of the current bus stop can create delays for bus passengers and ferry users due to congestion in the terminal area. A new bus-only “slip” lane that separates transit buses from other terminal traffic is proposed as part of the Balfour Ferry Terminal improvements. This was cited as a high priority in the previous round of consultation and will support timely reliable connections for ferry users. A new, covered bus shelter is also proposed to provide cover from rain and snow, and seating for people waiting for the bus.

The new lane and bus stop will be located near the highway so buses do not get caught in high-season vehicle ferry queueing or traffic, and allows for future transit system growth.

### CLOSURE OF UPPER BALFOUR ROAD

To help improve the safety of movement in and out of the Balfour Ferry Terminal, a partial realignment and widening of Hwy 31/3A needs to take place. The widening will increase the slope of the current Upper Balfour Road intersection to a point where it is not safe for vehicle use. Therefore, the road will be closed to vehicle traffic but remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.





15' CLEARANCE 4.5m

OSPREY



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# Feedback

This section of the Discussion Guide includes information on the topics for feedback and a Feedback Form.

Please provide your feedback by Friday, March 30, 2018.

## We Want Your Input

### HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

Your feedback is important to us. Input received through this community consultation will be compiled and considered by the ministry, along with technical, environmental and financial considerations, in refining and finalizing the improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service.

### BACKGROUND

The Balfour Ferry Terminal area has served ferry users since 1947. To ensure ongoing ferry user comfort and safety, access to local businesses and to meet seasonal demand, several improvements are needed at and around the Balfour Ferry Terminal. We want your feedback on the following topics.

Feedback Form Overview:

**Topic 1** – Improving queuing safety

**Topic 2** – Increasing parking capacity

**Topic 3** – New public washrooms

**Topic 4** – Greenspace options

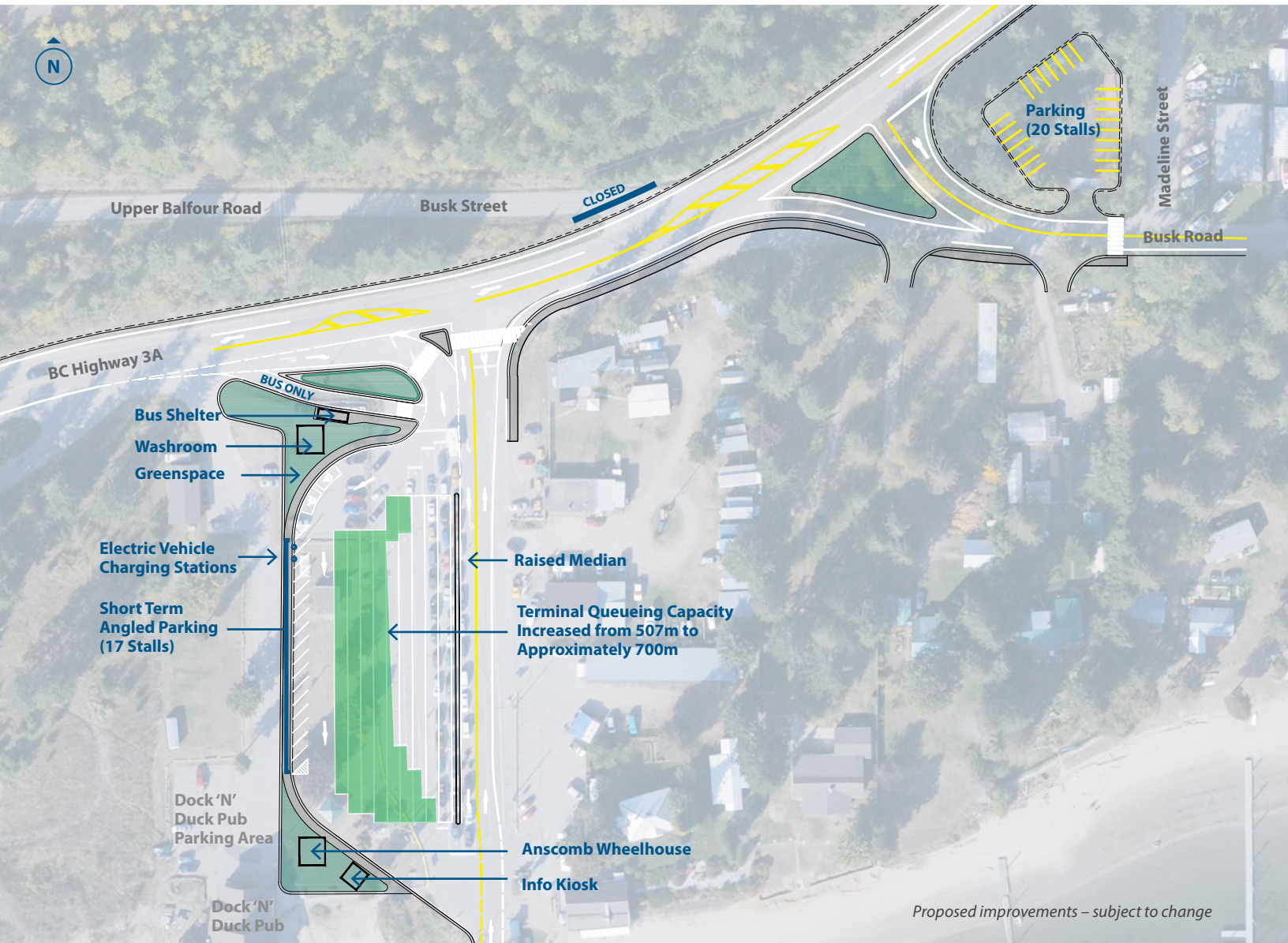
Opportunity for Additional Comments



**This Feedback Form can also be completed online at [gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal).**  
*Scan this QR code for more information.*



## AERIAL VIEW OF BALFOUR FERRY TERMINAL AREA

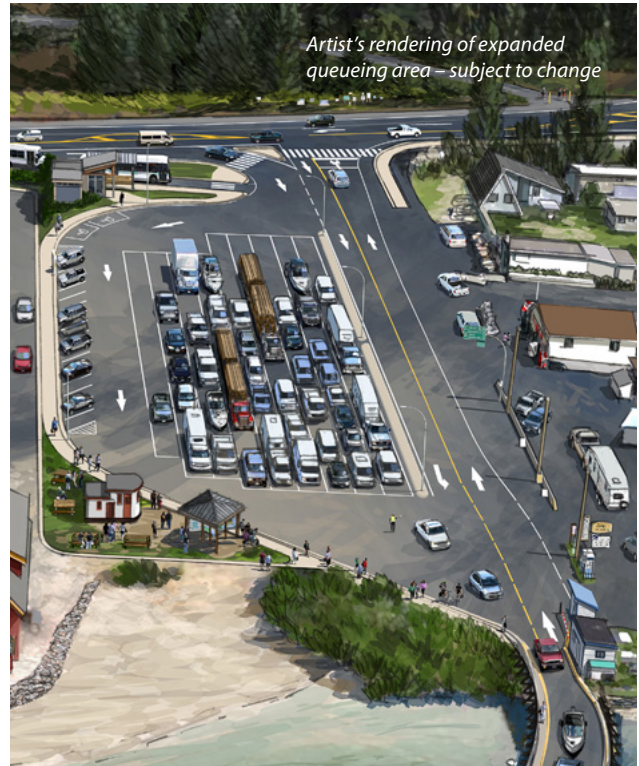




## Topic 1: Improving Queueing Safety

During peak summer weekends, there is not enough space within the terminal area for vehicles to queue for the ferry. As a result, vehicles spill out of the terminal area and queue along the side of Highway 3A, which is unsafe for both highway traffic and ferry users in the queue. To address this capacity and safety issue, the queueing area within the Balfour Ferry Terminal must be expanded.

The Province proposes expanding queueing capacity in the terminal to accommodate about 40% more vehicles during peak season and to improve safety for both Highway 3A and ferry users.



### 1. Please indicate your level of agreement with these proposed queueing improvements:

STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments you may have regarding your level of agreement:

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## Topic 2: Increasing Parking Capacity

The six existing parking spaces at the Balfour Ferry Terminal are often full during shoulder and peak seasons, which is challenging for walk-on ferry users and people wishing to access local businesses.

The Province proposes increasing the number of existing on-site parking stalls to 17. New electric vehicle charging stations will also be provided at the terminal, and a new 20-spot off-site parking area will be created immediately adjacent to the terminal on Busk Road.



### 2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the proposed expanded parking:

STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments you may have regarding your level of agreement:

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### Topic 3: New Public Washrooms

The existing washroom facilities are outdated, do not meet today's standards, and do not provide convenient access for people with mobility devices or strollers. New, fully-accessible washrooms are proposed at a new location at the north end of the terminal, and will include changing tables for infants.



### 3. Please indicate your level of agreement with the proposed new public washroom facilities:

STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments you may have regarding your level of agreement:

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## Topic 4: Greenspace Options

While waiting for the ferry, some ferry users utilize the existing greenspace to view the water, enjoy a coffee or snack or to walk their pets. Proposed queueing safety and parking expansions will reduce the existing greenspace. We want your input on which amenities to include in the remaining greenspace to make it as usable and enjoyable as possible.

- **Option A:** Two picnic tables, two benches facing the water, a replacement information/signage kiosk and the Anscomb wheelhouse.
- **Option B:** Four picnic tables and two benches facing the water. (The information kiosk and Anscomb wheelhouse would be relocated).



*Option A: Two picnic tables, two benches facing the water, a replacement information/signage kiosk and the Anscomb wheelhouse.*



*Option B: Four picnic tables and two benches facing the water. (The information kiosk and Anscomb wheelhouse would be relocated).*

### 4. Please indicate your preferred option:

OPTION A	OPTION B
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any comments or reasons you may have regarding your preference:

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**5. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding any aspect of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements:**

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**HOW INPUT WILL BE USED**

Your feedback is important to us. Input received through this public consultation will be compiled and considered by the ministry, along with technical, environmental and financial considerations, in refining and finalizing the improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry and Balfour Ferry Terminal area.

**DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK: MARCH 30, 2018**

You can return your completed Feedback Form:

- Online: complete the Feedback Form online at **[gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal)**
- By email: **[balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca)**
- By mail:  
Attn: Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements,  
MoTI – Marine Branch,  
PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5.

*Personal information is collected by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure under sections 26 (c) and (e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and for the purposes of soliciting the public’s feedback on the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements. To protect your own privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include any personal information including phone numbers and e-mail addresses in the body of your comments.*

*Should you have any questions about the collection of this information, please contact: Callum Campbell, Project Manager, Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements. PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9T5. Phone: 250.356.0461.*



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