



KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE – July 13, 2021

Work on the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project has moved forward steadily throughout the spring and is on track to delivering important safety enhancements. As part of the Province's commitment to keeping the public informed and engaged, this Project Update includes information about the vessel assembly yard, construction updates, as well as progress photos.

ASSEMBLY YARD FOR THE NEW VESSEL

Over the past few months, site preparation has been underway to convert the lakeside lot in Nelson, B.C. into a temporary shipyard where the new electric-ready vessel will be assembled. This summer, Western Pacific Marine Ltd. will begin fabricating the first modules of the new vessel. These modules will then be transported to site for assembly.

The new 55-car vessel is expected to begin service to replace the aging M.V. Balfour in 2023.



Site preparation activities, such as the building of this shelter, are underway at the assembly yard in Nelson, B.C.



Crews are safely progressing the infrastructure needed to receive the first modules of the new vessel later this summer.

TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS – CONSTRUCTION

Spring also saw the start of construction to improve terminal amenities at both the Balfour and Kootenay Lake Terminals. With the bulk of utility relocation for the project now complete, crews are shifting their focus to safely realign Upper Balfour Road. Thanks to public input, the realignment will help improve safety and traffic flow at the Upper Balfour Road and Busk Road intersection.

Construction work to improve safety and amenities at both the Kootenay Bay and Balfour Terminals will ramp up in the coming weeks. To avoid traffic disruptions, certain critical activities will take place at night from July 19 to September 2021. These include upcoming watermain installation and paving work. Terminal construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.



Grading of the steep slopes along Highway 3A are currently underway to support the realignment of the Upper Balfour Road and Busk Road intersection.



Excavation for the new washroom building in the Balfour terminal currently underway.

KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE

The ferry service continues to operate as usual during construction. Please obey all road signs, reduce speed, and follow the instructions of flaggers and terminal attendants.

With the increase of travel this summer, and as more people explore B.C., please remember to be safe and respectful. Health and safety measures continue to be in place to help keep other ferry users and our crew safe.

Did you know?

Summer service for the Kootenay Lake Ferry is in effect from June 18 to September 12, 2021. During this period, the 28-car M.V. Balfour provides additional sailings to accommodate the increase of travellers. Once the new 55-car vessel is in service, it will replace the M.V. Balfour and offer expanded capacity for future peak travel seasons.

BACKGROUND

In 2016 and 2018, the Province consulted with ferry users, area residents, and businesses about proposed improvements to the service, safety, and infrastructure of the Kootenay Lake Ferry. The Province made key changes to the final project plan after considering the input received, along with technical, environmental, and financial considerations. Some of these considerations were documented in the **2018 Consideration Memo**.

In April 2019, the Province, with funding support from the Government of Canada, announced safety and efficiency improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service.

The project involves the procurement of a new right-sized electric-ready vessel, safety and amenity improvements to both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, and now-completed minor dredging in the west arm of Kootenay Lake.

Collectively, these improvements will provide ferry users with a safer and more reliable ferry service as well as contribute to the Province's goal of employing electric propulsion on all inland ferries by 2040.

For more information about the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements, please visit gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.