



KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE – APRIL 9, 2021

Improvements to both the Kootenay Bay and Balfour terminals are set to begin this spring as part of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project. Assembly of the new electric-ready vessel will begin this summer in Nelson.

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Province awarded a \$5.5 million contract to Marwest Industries Ltd. of Castlegar, B.C., for upgrades to the Kootenay Lake Ferry terminals. Construction will begin this spring, with completion expected by the end of 2021.

At both terminals, ferry users can expect improvements to the greenspace and amenities, new terminal attendant stations and new sheltered waiting areas for walk-on passengers.

At the Kootenay Bay Terminal, improvements include: accessibility upgrades to the existing washroom facility, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, and better terminal lighting and parking.

At the Balfour Terminal, improvements include: significant increase to the vehicle queue capacity, a new washroom facility, a new transit shelter, overflow parking capacity, and better sidewalks and lighting to improve connections between the terminal, the new transit stop, and the highway.

Improvements will also be made to Highway 31/3A, along with the realignment of the Upper Balfour Road and Busk Road intersection, to improve safety and traffic flow within the community.

Artist renderings for both terminals are available at gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.

KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE

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

Health and safety measures continue to be in effect to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please obey all measures and guidelines to help keep other ferry users and our crew safe.

NEW VESSEL

Assembly of the new electric-ready vessel will begin this summer at Western Pacific Marine's site in Nelson after the City of Nelson granted its conditional approval in February 2021. In the meantime, site preparation, vessel design, and ongoing permitting continue to progress.

The new vessel is on course to enter service in 2023 and will more than double the capacity of the MV Balfour, which it will replace.

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 www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.