

Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project

Project Update - August 2022



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

In the past few months, progress on the Kootenay Lake Ferry Services Improvements Project has continued in order to deliver a safer and more reliable ferry service for users. This Project Update provides progress information about terminal improvements and assembly of the new vessel.

Terminal Improvements

The improvement work was recently completed at both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals. As the summer season kicks into high gear, users of the Kootenay Lake ferry are now enjoying improved amenities, more parking and better access at the terminals.

At Kootenay Bay, the ferry terminal's existing washroom facility now has improved accessibility. There are also new electric vehicle charging stations for EV drivers, along with better lighting and parking improvements.

At the Balfour terminal, the improvements include a new washroom facility and a significant increase to the terminal's vehicle queue capacity. Improvements were also made to Highway 3A/31 to enhance safety and traffic flow within the community. New sidewalks and lighting are helping ferry users safely move between the terminal, a new transit stop, a new parking area near Busk Road, and the highway.

On August 25, Nelson-Creston MLA Brittney Anderson hosted a community event at the Balfour terminal to mark its official opening.



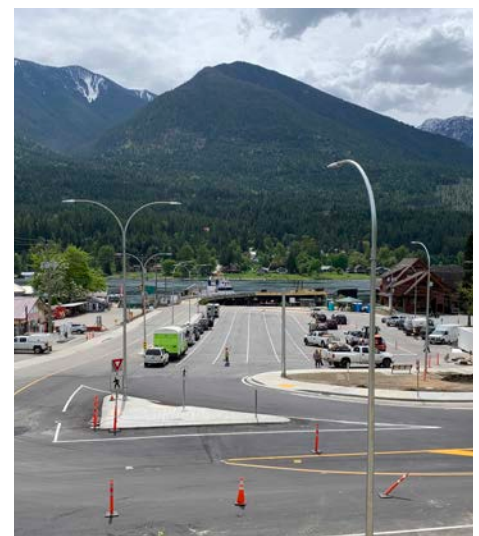
MLA Brittney Anderson marks the opening of the upgraded Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals.



The new picnic tables and bus stop.



Highway 3A looking down to the new crew parking lot.



The repaved and newly painted traffic lanes..

New Vessel Construction

A new electric-ready vessel is being assembled at the temporary shipyard in Nelson, B.C. The new vessel will more than double the capacity of the MV Balfour, which it will replace.

Global supply chain issues have impacted the delivery of important components for the new vessel, including the ship's engines. The new vessel is now expected to enter service in 2024. There is no expected impact to the ferry service resulting from this delay. Until the new vessel is ready for service, MV Osprey 2000 will remain in service throughout the year, with MV Balfour providing refit relief, and supplemental summer service.

The shipyard continues to receive deliveries of steel and prefabricated blocks which make up the hull of the vessel. Finished blocks are lifted by the crane and assembled in the dry dock located on the shore of the shipyard.

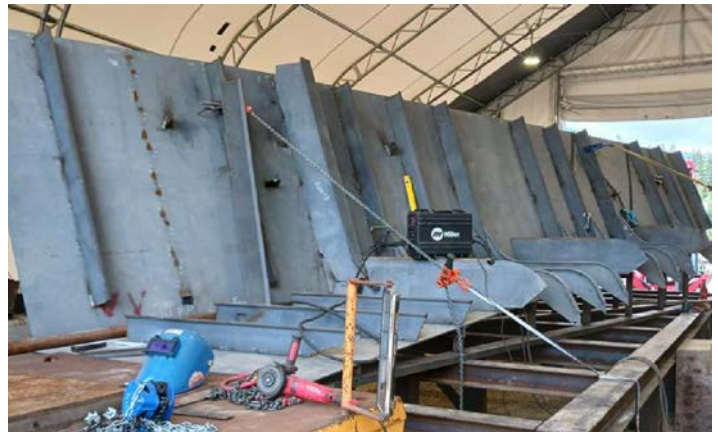
Once the ship's hull has been assembled and the ship's engines, thrusters, and batteries been installed, the ship will be floated and remain moored near the shore. At this point, the vessel will be outfitted with mechanical systems, electrical systems, control systems, interior components and finishes.



The two side hull pieces attached to the void keel.



The first bulkhead installed into the void of the hull.



In the fabrication shop, more pieces of the hull are being assembled in preparation for assembly on the dry dock.





Artists rendering of the new electric-ready vessel.

Kootenay Lake Ferry Service

The ferry service continues to operate as usual now that construction has completed.

Please visit www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferry to view the schedule and current conditions and events at the terminals.

In line with the Province's aim to electrify 100% of its inland ferry fleet by 2040, the new vessel will be built with all the systems, equipment, and components for electric propulsion alongside diesel engines. Once shore power is in place and the technology has been tested for reliable daily use, a full conversion will be made from diesel to electric propulsion.



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.