

Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project

Project Update - January 2022



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

The Kootenay Lake Ferry Services Improvements Project continues to be on track 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

Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, wildfires, and extreme weather in 2021, the terminal improvements are scheduled to finish in spring 2022.

At Balfour, the Ferry Landing Road, the ferry terminal lot, as well as portions of Busk Road and Upper Balfour Road have all been repaved, and the new ferry queue lines are painted. Other recent progress includes the completion of the bus shelter, sidewalks, and signage. Some work is still to be done on the washrooms and attendant building in Balfour, and a short section of Hwy 3A/31 will be paved sometime early in 2022 once the winter snow season has ended.

All scheduled night works have been completed.

At Kootenay Bay all roadworks at the terminal have completed. Renovations to the washroom and the new terminal attendant hut will be completed in early 2022.



Building out the form for the bus pad landing at Balfour terminal.

Reopening of Upper Balfour Road

The tie-in from Upper Balfour Road to Highway 3A has been finished, and Upper Balfour Road has been reopened to traffic. Thank you to all the residents of Upper Balfour for their patience while we undertook this necessary work to realign the road and improve safety for road users.



The Balfour terminal washrooms are nearing completion.



Stockpiled snow against the bus pad at Balfour.



Paving the tie-in from Upper Balfour Road to Highway 3A.

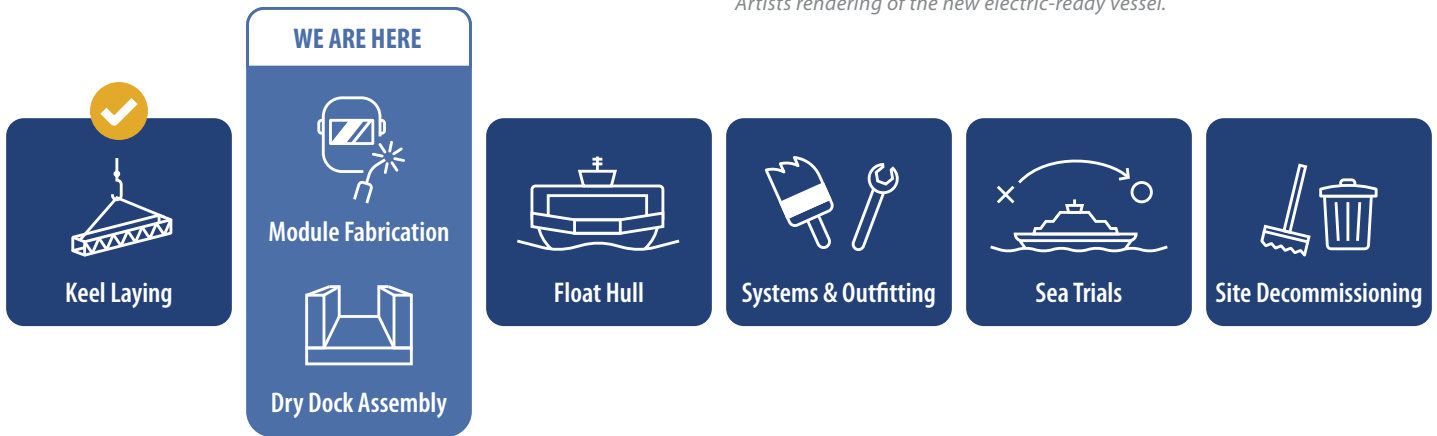
New Vessel Construction

A new electric-ready vessel is being assembled at the temporary shipyard in Nelson, B.C. The shipyard has received its first deliveries of steel and prefabricated blocks which make up the hull of the vessel. Finished blocks are lifted by crane and assembled together in the dry dock located on the shore of the shipyard.

Once the ship's hull has been assembled, the ship will be floated and remain moored near the shore where it can be outfitted with mechanical systems, electrical systems, control systems, interior components and finishes.



Artists rendering of the new electric-ready vessel.



Potable and non-potable (stainless steel) water tanks arrive at the shipyard as work continues in the snow.



Engine room blocks are assembled in the drydock.

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. By 2030, 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.

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.



Artists rendering of the new Balfour Terminal.

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.