



KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2020

The Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project work has continued since the last project update. The new vessel contract has been awarded, work continues on terminal improvements, and the MV Osprey completed its first low-water season post-dredge with no adverse operational impacts.

NEW VESSEL

Following a procurement process that [shortlisted three B.C. firms](#) as finalists, in September 2020 the province announced B.C. company Western Pacific Marine Ltd. has been awarded the contract to design and build the new ferry. The new electric-ready vessel is scheduled to enter service in early 2023, and will more than double the capacity of the MV Balfour, which it will replace.



As part of [CleanBC](#), the province is working to transition the entire inland ferry fleet to electric propulsion by 2040. The new vessel will be a hybrid diesel-electric with all the systems,



equipment, and components required for electric propulsion. The vessel will be fully converted to electric propulsion by 2030, once shore power is installed and reliability of the technology advances for use on a daily basis.

The new ship will be able to accommodate up to 55 vehicles and, used in tandem with the larger MV Osprey 2000, will reduce sailing waits during the busy summer months.

TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS

Terminal design and environmental approvals are ongoing. Work includes capacity and safety improvements within the terminal parking and passenger area, as well as the entrance to the terminals from the Highway. Planned improvements to terminal amenities include upgrades to washroom facilities, new sheltered waiting areas, EV charging stations, and greenspace improvements.

Preliminary land preparation (including tree removal and utilities work at the terminal entrance and along the highway) is scheduled to occur this Fall and Winter prior to the main improvement contract scheduled for tender in early 2021.

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](#) that can be found on the [project website](#) . In April 2019, the Province, with funding support from the Government of Canada, announced that safety and efficiency improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service will be implemented beginning in the Fall of 2019. The project will involve the procurement of a new right-sized electric-ready ferry, safety and amenity improvements to both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, and 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 updates or to find more information about the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements, please visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject>