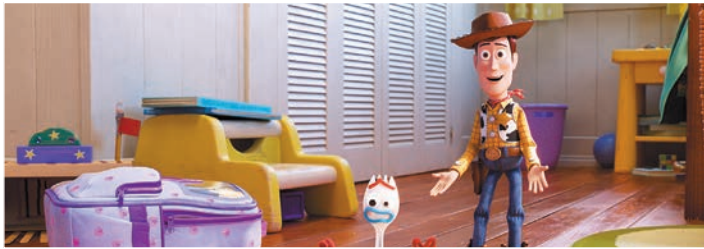


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Edmonds council kills connector project

It's "back to square one" for supporters of a waterfront emergency route over the railroad tracks.

BY IAN DAVIS-LEONARD
Herald Writer

EDMONDS — After at least seven years spent reviewing 50 different ideas, the city of Edmonds is no closer to building its Waterfront Connector — and the project's future is uncertain.

The Edmonds City Council voted 4-3 Tuesday evening to end the estimated \$27.5 million endeavor early in the design phase.

The one-lane access bridge, linking Sunset Avenue to Brackett's Landing North near the ferry terminal, would have provided emergency services a route over the railroad tracks when stopped trains block access to the ferry

dock, beaches and marina.

On the table was a \$2.3 million supplemental agreement to continue the connector project design to 60 percent completion. Instead, the safety conundrum along the railroad tracks remains unanswered.

"Right now, we are back to square one," said Phil Williams, the city's public works director. "It will take more conversation and more work with the council to design another strategy for how to improve our emergency access."

City Councilman Mike Nelson made the motion to end further studies of the connector. Councilmembers Diane Buckshnis, Neil Tibbott and Adrienne



CITY OF EDMONDS

An artist's conception of the proposed Edmonds waterfront connector.

Fraley-Monillas, the council president, voted with Nelson to support the motion.

"When we sit here championing that it is more safe to do this, I am just not buying it and I don't think

it's a top priority," Nelson said.

Nelson and Tibbott, along with Councilwoman Kristiana Johnson, who voted the other way, are all running for Edmonds mayor. Buckshnis is also up for city council

re-election this fall.

Attempts to amend Nelson's motion by Councilman Dave Teitzel to take the design process to 30 percent and evaluate the results of an environmental assessment failed with four no votes.

The council's decision came before the public comment section of the meeting, leaving some attendees upset.

"You didn't hear anyone from the actual community," one woman shouted.

Fraley-Monillas said the council already knew the opinions of the people. She said prior to the meeting she received 400 emails, the vast majority opposing the connector.

Critics of the project cited

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Yes, you're seeing double



Above: Nick Carwin (left) and his brother, Matt, talk with Jim and John Doherty during a twins get-together hosted by the Washington State Twin Registry at WSU Everett on Wednesday night.

At right, identical twins Sherri Simonoff (left) and Terri Jeffries share a laugh and matching outfits. The registry is a database comprised of twin pairs participating in health and behavior-related research. The WSTR, formerly the University of Washington Twin Registry, was established 20 years ago and is one of the largest active registries in the U.S.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN CLARK / THE HERALD



Higher ferry fares floated by state panel

The transportation commission also wants to double the surcharge that funds vessel construction.

BY JERRY CORNFIELD
Herald Writer

BREMERTON — Prepare to pay more for a trip on a Washington State Ferry.

On Wednesday, the state Transportation Commission recommended boosting prices to cover the higher costs of day-to-day operations, building of a new hybrid-electric ferry and converting of two existing vessels to run on electricity and fuel.

Vehicle fares would rise 2.5 percent Oct. 1 and another 2.5 percent May 1, 2020 under a draft proposal endorsed unanimously by the commission's seven citizen members. Fares for walk-ons would climb 2 percent on each of those dates.

Plus a surcharge used solely for vessel construction, which is now a quarter, would go up to 50 cents May 1, 2020.

Collectively, those changes would add about a dollar to a one-way vehicle fare on the Edmonds-Kingston route and a little less than that for the Mukilteo-Clinton route.

The draft proposal will be posted online in the next few days after which ferry users and the general public are encouraged to submit comments. Commissioners will review them before taking final action at their Aug. 6 meeting in Seattle.

Commissioner Debbie Young expressed an openness Wednesday to slimming down the surcharge increase which she knows concerns many riders.

"It's been tough to decide with (good) arguments on both sides," she said. "Because we have an option to reduce the capital surcharge in August ... I

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back page, this section

Seizure may be cause of fatal Lynnwood crash

BY ZACHARIAH BRYAN
Herald Writer

LYNNWOOD — A seizure may have caused a woman to lose control of her car and hit two pedestrians in Lynnwood last month, killing a woman and injuring a man, according to new search warrant documents.

Lynnwood police are still

investigating, but have not made an arrest in the fatal crash, Deputy Chief Jim Nelson recently wrote in an email. He confirmed that a medical condition appears to be a contributing factor.

On May 16, the Everett woman was driving a Honda CRV west on 188th Street SW when she crossed into eastbound lanes.

Blenen E.M. Gonzalvo, 53, of

Lynnwood, was walking on the sidewalk when the Honda jumped over the curb and hit her. She was carried on the car as it traveled another 70 feet and thrown off into a yard. Gonzalvo died at the scene from blunt force trauma, according to the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

The Honda then slammed into the garage of a house on the

intersection with 48th Avenue W. A resident in his 60s suffered injuries that were not life-threatening. He was released from a local hospital the same day.

That stretch of 188th Street is a residential arterial with a bicycle lane, in a neighborhood of

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A little bit of
everything
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