



# TOWN OF SIDNEY

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **ANACORTES FERRY RIDES THE WAVE OF SUCCESS**

The good news is in. According to Washington State Ferries, ridership on the Sidney-Anacortes ferry run is up 10 percent. "This continues the trend we saw in 2010," said Mayor Larry Cross, "which is great news."

Over 98,000 cars and people traveled on the ferry through the end of August, with another three months left in the schedule. Last year, during the same period, the number was about 88,000. "We expect this to be our best year ever," said Chris Olson, Contract Agent of the Anacortes Ferry Terminal. "The exceptionally warm weather right into September has really encouraged people to take one of the most beautiful ferry trips in the world."

No doubt the strong Canadian dollar has also accounted for the increased ridership as greater numbers of Canadians hop on board to shop for bargains not always available in Canada. Some people have also observed that the long lines at the Peace Arch this summer have motivated people to use the Anacortes Ferry as a relatively hassle-free and cost-effective way of getting to the United States.

The Sister Cities Associations in Sidney and Anacortes have led the way to preserve this vital link between Canada and the United States. "We are excited to see the increase in ridership," said Lesley Nicholls of the Sidney Sister Cities Association. "All that hard work to promote the ferry and the unique qualities of Anacortes and Sidney are paying off. People on both sides of the border, I think, are delighted to find someplace new to explore that is so close to home."

The ferry run will continue to operate until Saturday, December 31, 2011 and resume again Sunday March 18, 2012. The fall daily departure from Sidney is at 12:05 with arrival in Anacortes at 3:00. Information about fares and reservations can be found at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries) or by phoning 250-656-1831.

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