

## M.V. *Rachel Marie* to serve King County Water Taxi West Seattle route

January 28, 2010 - On January 25, 2010, the King County Ferry District Board of Supervisors approved the lease of the M.V. *Rachel Marie* to serve the King County Water Taxi West Seattle/Downtown Seattle route. Service is scheduled to begin in April 2010.

The *Rachel Marie* is the sister ship to the *Melissa Ann* (now in service on the Vashon Island/Downtown Seattle route). Both vessels are 77-foot catamarans with capacity for 150 passengers with a crew of three.

The vessels were built for the U.S. Army in 1988 at Nichols Brothers Boat Builders on Whidbey Island to ferry workers to and from the ballistic missile tracking station on the Kwajalein atoll (in the Pacific).

After their service with the Army, both of the vessels served as the Bremerton-Seattle foot ferry and then worked together in Hawaii as a commuter ferry. The *Rachel Marie* most recently worked in Juneau, Alaska, where she ferried workers to a remote silver mine.



M.V. *Rachel Marie*

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Like the *Melissa Ann*, the *Rachel Marie's* interior features a combination of theater-style seating, bench seats with tables, and facing seats. The *Rachel Marie* has an air conditioning/heating system, two restrooms and can carry 18 bicycles.

The *Rachel Marie* has two 900HP propulsion engines; she is equipped with two radar systems, a GPS plotter, a depth sounder, and an automated information system transponder.

Specifications for the *Rachel Marie*:

- Length - 77 ft.
- Beam - 29 ft.
- Draft (deepest) - 5 ft.
- Weight - 51 tons

Additional information about the King County Ferry District is available at [www.kingcountyferries.org](http://www.kingcountyferries.org). Sailing schedules, fares and other operational information is available at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/Marine/WaterTaxi.aspx>.