



Marine Access Committee 2017/2018 Capital project proposals

Upgrade Fort Ward trailer boat launch ramp

The existing Fort Ward boat launch ramp is the only launch site available apart from City Dock on Bainbridge Island. There are an estimated 3,500 registered boats and 1,000 registered boat trailers on the island. Space in marinas is limited and expensive and many Islanders rely on being able to launch from a ramp.

This project is our primary priority as once rebuild of the City Dock commences in 2017 it will be the only launch site until rebuild is completed.

As illustrated in the photos on the right, Fort Ward ramp has no dock or seawall on which people can stand once their trailer boat is launched or from which they can enter or leave their vessel. Users are required to stand in water up to waist deep to hold the boat once launched. Climbing into boats from the water is often a challenge as well. This can be hazardous due to Rich Passage currents and wind.

During the crab and summer seasons the Fort Ward ramp is heavily used and parking and turn-around is very limited. Overflow parking impacts residents on Pleasant Beach Drive.



MAC proposes that CoBI work in cooperation with BI Parks to install a permanent or removable dock to facilitate trailered boat launching and extend and upgrade parking & turn-around space within the Park boundary.

Investigate the possibility of fast-tracking the installation of a temporary set of floats anchored at both ends to facilitate access during the 2017 City Dock build window.

The photo at right is of the recently completed upgrade of Bremerton's Evergreen park boat ramp, which was accomplished in a cooperative project by the City and Port of Bremerton at a cost of \$464,000. (\$348,000 in State grant funds and the remainder split between the city and Port.) The project includes a seasonal and removable ADA compliant dock, upgrades to the ramp paving and 15 dedicated trailer parking spaces. The Port and the City of Port Orchard have also completed a similar cooperative upgrade of the Water Street boat ramp at a cost of \$402,000.

Estimated budget: \$450,000



Harbor viewing platform

MAC proposes that CoBI build a viewing platform similar to that installed at the Kingston ferry site in a cooperative project between WSDOT and the City (as illustrated in the top photo) so that visitors have a place to view the comings and goings within the harbor and take pictures with Seattle and the Sound as a backdrop.

WSDOT estimates that 3,093,016 foot passengers and 1,311,211 vehicle passengers used the Seattle / Bainbridge ferry in 2015. The ferry trip to the Island and especially Winslow are now very popular day trips for many thousands of tourists each year - especially during the summer months.

As illustrated in the bottom photo at right, there is no place or opportunity to see the water, the Sound or marine traffic from the terminal area. We are essentially hiding a great view and a key asset and attraction.

We see this as a public/private funding opportunity.

Preferred site: Outside the ferry terminal between the smoking area and the motorcycle parking area

Optional sites:

- (a.) Waterfront Park on the east side of the City Dock or
- (b.) the harbor side of the ferry waiting area.

Note: viewing platforms at all of these sites would have value.

Estimated budget: \$200,000



Additional harbor viewing benches

MAC proposes that CoBI install additional benches at viewpoints along the north side of Eagle Harbor. These are within walking distance for most visitors and would complement the upgrade of Waterfront Park.

1. Along the strip (next to the Waterfront Trail) to the west of the Pub Marina access ramp
2. Along the waterfront in Waterfront Park east of the City dock

Estimated budget: \$4,000



Bike racks and parking at prime road-end sites

MAC proposes that CoBI install up to 10 bike racks and create or clearly define/mark out parking spots at prime (well-used) road-end sites

Specific sites: TBD

Estimated budget: \$10,000

Projects that require further investigation

1. Point White pier. In conjunction with BI Parks, investigate possible upgrades to provide small boat launch site and/or water-level docking



2. Rebuild collapsed seawall at Ward Avenue road-end. Connect it to the public launch float in Eagle Harbor Marina



3. Investigate expansion of parking area and widening of water access track at John Nelson Park at Strawberry Cannery Cove to accommodate small boat launching

