

Howe Island Ratepayers Association

November 1, 2014

To all Howe Island residents and property owners:

HIRA has initiated two ferry surveys over the past five years. The last survey in December 2013 resulted in a number of suggestions from residents to improve our ferry service. These suggestions have been presented to council and they are taking actions on some of the suggestions. We now need additional input from the residents on what specific actions that you would like council to take to ensure that our ferry service keeps up with the demand caused by increased traffic over the next few years.

Council initiated a Howe Island Transportation Study that was presented to Council by AECOM (consultant) during September 2013. This study identified the future loadings on the ferries based on growth projections for Howe Island. Based on our experience the wait times for the ferries will become problematic by 2016. (The last survey also supported this conclusion).

HIRA is therefore continuing to encourage Council to seek solutions in the short run to improve the efficiencies with the existing ferries and to seek financial solutions to ultimately improve capacities. To this end we are seeking the communities input that we will take to Council. Based on the previous survey and subsequent discussions HIRA has identified a number of initiatives that we believe would meet these goals and at the same time limit the financial implications to the exiting residents. While it is recognized that a new ferry may well be the ultimate solution and needed sooner than later HIRA is concerned that Howe Island may not have enough reserve funds at this time for a new ferry and therefore a number of funding options will have to be considered.

We do not know the total funding that will be required at this time to improve ferry capacity at the foot. When the estimates are received you can be assured that we will do our best to ensure that all levels of Government take part in this funding.

Please take a moment and give us your comments by completing the attached survey. Your individual comments will be kept confidential however we do ask that you sign the surveys so we may contact you if needed for further clarification. The aggregate of the comments will be submitted to council and also will be put up on our web site.

Please drop off the completed surveys at the HIRA Mail box at the Municipal office on 50 Base line road or at 299 North Shore road by November 15, 2014.

If you have not already done so please drop off your membership dues (\$10 per year or \$100 for a lifetime membership) at the same time. Please only leave cheques.

Thank you

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<p>Return to HIRA mail box at the Municipal office or at 299 North Shore road before Nov 15, 2014</p> <p>You do not have to be a member of HIRA to respond.</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Number of residents this survey represents ____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>
<p>Use the following criteria for your responses: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Very Poor.</p> <p>1 - How would you rate the overall ferry service that you are currently receiving? ()</p> <p>2- Ferry turnaround time ()</p> <p>3 -Courteous helpful staff ()</p> <p>4- Ferry loading ()</p> <p>5- Safety ()</p>	<p>Comments you can also add an additional sheet</p>
<p>Foot ferry suggestions to reduce wait times</p> <p>6- Should commercial vehicles be restricted on the foot ferry?</p> <p>7- Should trailers and recreational vehicles be restricted on the foot ferry?</p> <p>8 -Which ferry do you use predominantly?</p> <p>9- Should additional staff be added at the foot ferry to eliminate the wait time caused by breaks?</p> <p>10 -Are you willing to pay more in taxes or fees to make this happen?</p> <p>11- Do you agree that we need to increase the size of the boat at the foot to enable it to carry at least 2 more cars?</p> <p>12 -Are you willing to pay more in taxes or fees to make this happen?</p>	<p>During Rush Hour (yes or no)</p> <p>Non Rush Hour (yes or no)</p> <p>During Rush Hour (yes or no)</p> <p>Non Rush Hour (yes or no)</p> <p>3 Car () 15 Car ()</p> <p>Yes () No () comments</p> <p>Yes () No () comments</p> <p>Yes () No () comments</p> <p>Yes () No () comments</p>
<p>Financial options both ferries</p> <p>13- Do you agree that you should pay for the amount of space you use on the ferries? i.e. if you use more than one space should you pay more.</p> <p>14- Do you agree that all property owners on Howe Island should pay a yearly fee to help pay for the ferries? Not all property owners currently buy a pass.</p>	<p>Yes () No () comments</p> <p>Yes () No () comments</p>
<p>15-Do you agree that ferry wait lines on the 15 car ferry need to be kept under 30 cars (2 ferries leave and you are still waiting) to maintain quality of life on Howe Island.</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>
<p>16-Do you agree that ferry wait lines on the 3 car ferry need to be kept under 9 cars (3 ferries leave and you are still waiting) to maintain quality of life on Howe Island?</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>
<p>17- Do you think that we should have a special ferry levy on all new development to help pay for additional ferry capacity?</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>
<p>18-Would you be willing to get involved with fundraising for a new boat, dock, and bubble system at the foot?</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>
<p>19- Would you be willing to have a temporary tax levy to help pay for a new boat at the foot?</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>
<p>20- Do you think that council should borrow for a new boat?</p>	<p>Yes () or No () comments</p>