

2017 FARE PROPOSAL

IMPLEMENTATION DATES

OCTOBER 1, 2017

OCTOBER 1, 2018



Washington State
Transportation Commission

PROPOSAL FOR BICYCLE REGULATORY LANGUAGE

WSF currently charges a bicycle surcharge (typically \$1) for single fare passengers riding bicycles onto ferries. Two issues related to bicycle travel have created fare determination challenges for ticket sellers and customers alike:

Electric and Motorized Bicycles/Mopeds

First, as electric bicycles have grown in popularity, there has been an increase in the range and type of these bicycles available to consumers, which has in turn made it harder to classify them for fare purposes. Currently, there is a lack of clarity in WSF's fare policies in this area.

To address this concern, the Commission proposes that language be added to the WAC to clearly define bicycles and electric bicycles using Revised Code of Washington (RCW) definitions and registration requirements of the Department of Licensing (DOL). Once defined, bicycles and electric bicycles can be charged the appropriate bicycle fare. If they are not licensed, they are charged the passenger fare and (if single fare) bicycle surcharge. If they are licensed, they get charged the motorcycle/driver fare.

Bicycles Towing Trailers

Secondly, customers traveling by bicycle are also increasingly towing trailers of various kinds. While the WAC infers that the stowage fee should apply, the language is not clear or specific about the appropriate treatment of bicycles towing trailers.

The Commission proposes including clarifying language around bicycles towing a trailer and the applicable fee. The proposed additions follow.

Proposed WAC Language

Underlined language represents new text or additions to existing text, and strikeouts represent language proposed to be removed from the WAC.

WAC 468-300-010 BICYCLE SURCHARGE - Is an addition to the appropriate passenger fare. Customers using multiride media and monthly passes are exempt from the bicycle surcharge. On all routes except Anacortes/San Juan Island/Sidney, B.C., customers paying with the ePurse or the ORCA card are exempt from the bicycle surcharge. For the purpose of WSF fare determination, the bicycle fare category shall include both bicycles and electric bicycles that do not require registration or license plates as defined by RCW 46.04.071 and RCW 46.04.169. Bicycles towing a trailer are to be charged the motorcycle/driver (stowage) rate in WAC 468-300-020. This rate includes the fare for the walk on passenger with the bicycle, and the trailer being towed by the bicycle.

Background

Electric Bicycles

Under the current RCW definitions, some classes of electric bicycles, like speed pedelecs that appear



similar to bicycles are classified as mopeds and require registration because they do not limit top speeds to below 20 mph. The following are the current definitions included in the RCW.

- **Bicycle** (RCW 46.04.071) - "Bicycle" means every device propelled solely by human power upon which a person or persons may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is sixteen inches or more in diameter, or three wheels, any one of which is more than twenty inches in diameter.
- **Electric-assisted bicycle** (RCW 46.04.169) - "Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than one thousand watts, be incapable of propelling the device at a speed of more than twenty miles per hour on level ground, and be incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power alone is used to propel the device beyond twenty miles per hour.
- **Moped** (RCW 46.04.304) - "Moped" means a motorized device designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and having an electric or a liquid fuel motor with a cylinder displacement not exceeding fifty cubic centimeters which produces no more than two gross brake horsepower (developed by a prime mover, as measured by a brake applied to the driving shaft) that is capable of propelling the device at not more than thirty miles per hour on level ground.
- **Motorcycle** (RCW 46.04.330) - "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels, not including any stabilizing conversion kits, on which the driver:
 - Rides on a seat or saddle and the motor vehicle is designed to be steered with a handlebar; or
 - Rides on a seat in a partially or completely enclosed seating area that is equipped with safety belts and the motor vehicle is designed to be steered with a steering wheel.
 - "Motorcycle" excludes a farm tractor, a power wheelchair, an electric personal assistive mobility device, a motorized foot scooter, an electric-assisted bicycle, and a moped.

Bicycles Towing Trailers

WSF staff face challenges in determining the appropriate fare when customers arrive on bicycles that are towing a trailer. The informal guidance directs that these riders be charged a stowage fee in place of a bicycle fare, while the formal regulatory language is not clear.

The Commission reviewed language that could be added to the WAC to help formalize the policy around bicycles towing trailers. As part of this review, the Commission considered the deck space occupied by bicycles towing stowage items, as well as how to keep bicycles incentivized over vehicles, which occupy more deck space.