From: rory thesellersplace.com
To: Public Comment
Subject: car ferry to Peaks: cheap Wednesdays
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:49:57 PM

Dear Sirs:

I've been told this is the address to send my comments regarding what I have heard concerning the car-ferry rates to Peaks.

May I first state my opinion that needing to pay over $30 to transport my private car from one part of the city to another a few miles away seems unreasonable to me and I believe the municipal, state, and federal governments should provide a less expensive mode of public transportation for driving to work. A lot of tax funding goes into supporting our automobile infrastructure, but very little, it seems to me, in support of the single motorized link that exists between two significant city neighborhoods.

Having said that, let me now address the problem that I've heard raised by the Bay Lines (please correct me if I am mistaken) that focusing a cheaper alternative on a single weekday (Wednesday) results in so much traffic as to make it unsafe.

I have two kinds of comments regarding this. One relates to the issue of safety. If this truly is an issue of safety, not economics (i.e., if using safety isn't just an excuse to raise the rate on Wednesday), then why not institute other obvious measure regarding safety for the Lines? The first, I would submit, would be a regular drill in the use of safety equipment on the boats so all personnel, both public and employees, are experienced in the use of equipment in a reasonably realistic simulation where actual passengers are involved. In ten years on Peaks I am unaware of this occurring a single time. Secondly, I find it enormously unsafe to have vehicles crowded in so tightly that passengers, some of whom are required by regulation to remain inside vehicles, would have great difficulty exiting cars in the event of a sudden sinking. I am frequently in a car where the driver's door is not far enough away from the side bulkhead of the hold to enable me to open my door. I think this setup is tremendously unsafe and in the event of a disaster would be highly criticized.

The second concerns the Wednesday scheduling itself. Why does the fare structure exist as it is? Why are people encouraged to utilize Wednesday for car ferry service? Wouldn't there be a better way to keep things more organized by having the fare the same all week? While I am opposed to fares as high as $30 (and can't believe you are allowed to charge over $60 and $80 at other times), why not state a figure that you claim is your bottom-line requirement for vehicular traffic revenue, and set a price that evens out the traffic across the week based on supply and demand? Surely if the price were the same every day there wouldn't be a problem with traffic on Wednesday. And taking a long-term view, if the traffic grew so much that not

everybody could be accommodated across a given week, wouldn't it only be conscionable to institute some kind of reservation system? And if you agree with that, why not institute a reservation system now, and limit the number of reservations to the number of vehicles you feel can be safely accommodated?

Thank you,

Rorick Sellers
Peaks Island

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click here to report this email as spam.