



Questions and Answers – Foot Passenger Ferry

Who can bid on the RFP?

- The RFP will be open to qualified firms that can demonstrate an ability to provide a fast, frequent and reliable passenger ferry service between downtown Nanaimo and downtown Vancouver.

When will the RFP be issued?

- The RFP will be issued in early 2016.

When will a passenger ferry become operational?

- One of the key evaluation criteria will be the operating dates put forward by the proponents.

Why did Council not proceed with the Island Ferry Services Ltd proposal?

- Both the City and the NPA will benefit from working together in an effort to see a fast ferry service provided between Nanaimo and Vancouver. It is therefore in the City's best interest to support the NPA with a joint RFP process. Moving forward, Council hopes that IFSL will participate in the RFP process with a strong proposal.

Why did Council terminate the MOU?

- The MOU was an agreement between the City, RDN, NEDC, the NPA and Island Ferries. The key principles of the MOU were not being met by the parties. The MOU allowed any party to terminate the agreement. The NPA gave notice last week that they were terminating the agreement. The City agrees that the MOU is no longer in effect.

What is the City's position with regard to the NPA issuing an RFP by themselves?

- The foot passenger ferry is a project that provides a competitive advantage to the entire region and it is critical that all partners work in a coordinated manner. Council has directed staff to work with the NPA in a unified manner to reduce duplication and to ensure the end goal of a foot ferry is delivered to the City and the region.

How does this impact the City's long term working relationship with ISFL?

- The City has worked with IFSL for the past 4 years trying to secure a passenger ferry service. The City looks forward to continuing to work with IFSL on their proposal under the framework established by the RFP.

Where will the passenger Ferry Terminal be located?

- Respondents to the RFP will be asked to provide their preferred location. At the moment, there are essentially two options open – the City owned lands at 1 Port Drive (Seaspan site) and the NPA Cruise Ship Terminal.

How does the siting of the passenger ferry terminal fit with the vision for the south downtown waterfront?

- The south downtown waterfront identified the NPA Cruise Ship Terminal or the City owned lands at 1 Port Drive as desirable locations for the passenger ferry. The City is currently undertaking a master planning process for the City owned lands. The results of the RFP will provide direction for the use of the land.

What is the role of NEDC?

- NEDC will help promote the passenger ferry service and assist with investor attraction and retention.