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West Seattle water taxi offers short, scenic ride

By Madeline McKenzie
Seattle Times staff

Spring has finally arrived and the King County Water Taxi is back in service, providing a scenic 12-minute ride across Elliott Bay to popular recreation destinations and a pleasant commute between West Seattle and the downtown waterfront.

The West Seattle terminal at Seacrest Park is adjacent to the wide, 2.5-mile path for walkers and bicyclists along the water from Duwamish Head to Alki Point. Two bus routes provide free transportation from Seacrest Park to West Seattle attractions.

Route 775 heads to Alki Beach and the Admiral District, with stops near the historic Alki Point Lighthouse, the Log House Museum and Schmitz Preserve Park. Route 773 goes to West Seattle Junction shops, restaurants and year-around Sunday farmers market.

From Pier 55, bus route 99 provides free transportation to destinations along the Seattle downtown waterfront and the Chinatown International District.

The passenger-only boats provide indoor and outdoor seating and accept bicycles at no additional charge as space permits.

Tide and weather conditions can affect access for people with disabilities at the Seacrest terminal; for information and assistance, call Argosy at 206-623-1445. Year-around service and improvements for accessibility at Seacrest are planned for next year.

The details

Time: Water-taxi service, 6:50 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., every 40-60 minutes. Hours extended on weekdays with Seattle Mariner games. Service may be suspended during bad weather.

Cost: \$3/ages 6-adult; \$1/riders with valid Metro transfer; free/ages 5 and younger, or with any Puget Pass or Metro Regional Day Pass, monthly or annual fare sticker, FlexPass, Metro Access pass, VanPool pass or U-Pass.

Location: Pier 55, 1101 Alaskan Way, Seattle and Seacrest Park, 1660 Harbor Ave. S.W., Seattle.

Getting there: Free neighborhood shuttles, DART routes 773, West Seattle Junction and route 775, Alki Point and Admiral District, from Seacrest Park; free bus service to Pier 55 by waterfront bus route 99. Other bus information, 206-553-3000 or tripplanner.metrokc.gov. Parking is limited at Seacrest Park. Metered parking available near Seacrest Park and Pier 55.



KEN LAMBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The cityscape can be seen through a water-taxi window as it departs from Seacrest Park in West Seattle for Pier 55 downtown Monday.

More information: 206-205-3866 or www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/Marine/WaterTaxi.aspx.

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