



**Des Moines, WA
Ferry Pilot Evaluation
and Alternatives**

**Project
Overview**

February 2026

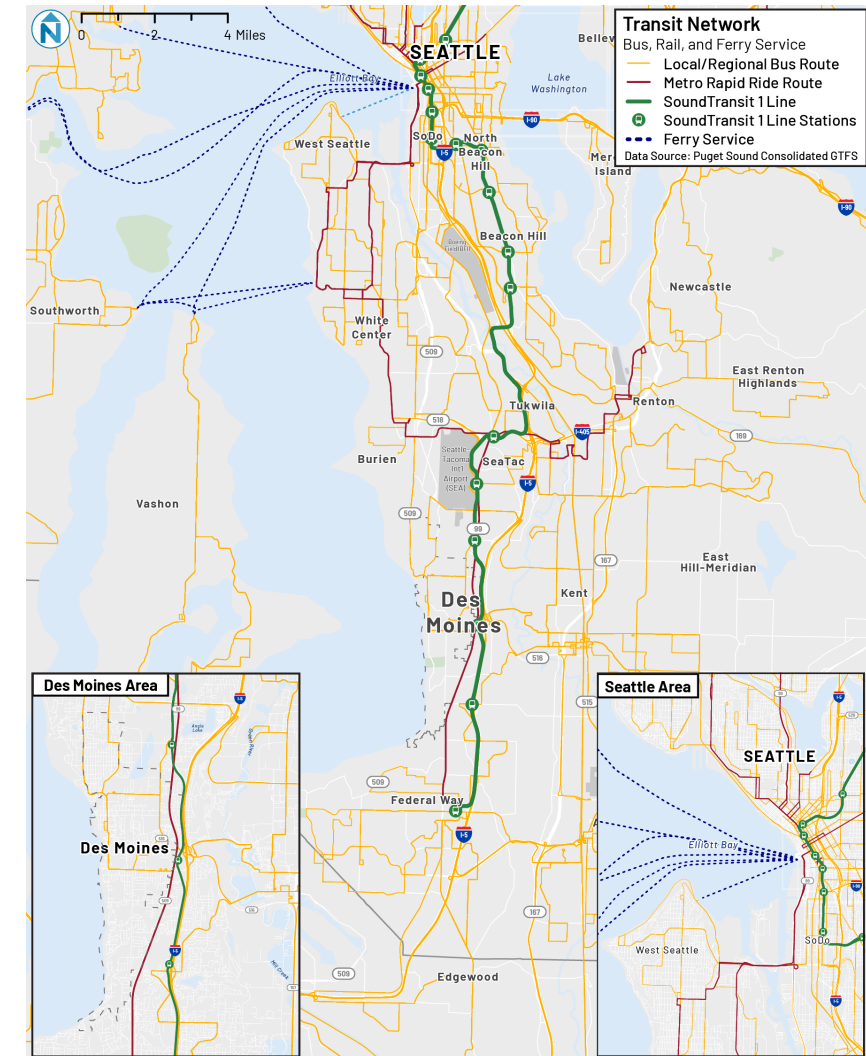
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Study Goals

- Analyze the market for Des Moines to Seattle ferry service
- Evaluate 2022 Des Moines Ferry Pilot
- Explore Potential for New Service and Alternatives

Study Timeline

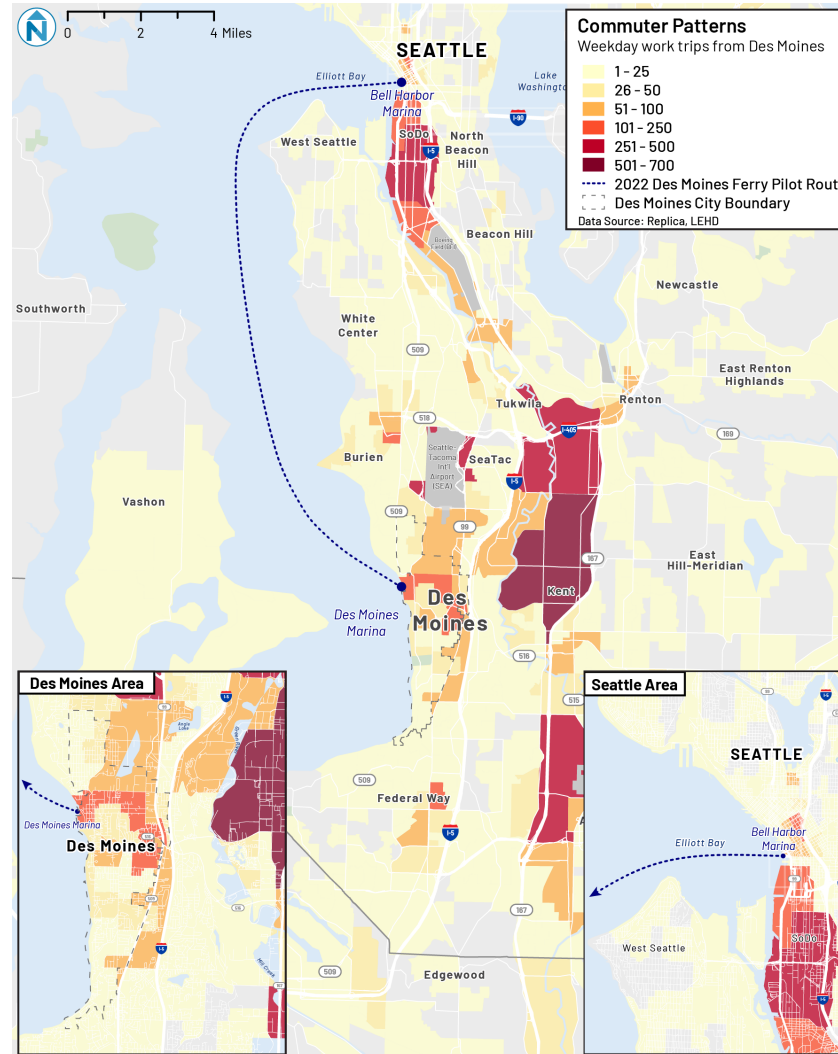
- November 2025 – Study Begins
- Winter 2025/26 – Market Analysis, Stakeholder Engagement
- Spring 2026 – Pilot Evaluation, Alternatives Analysis, Community Survey
- May 2026 – Study Concludes



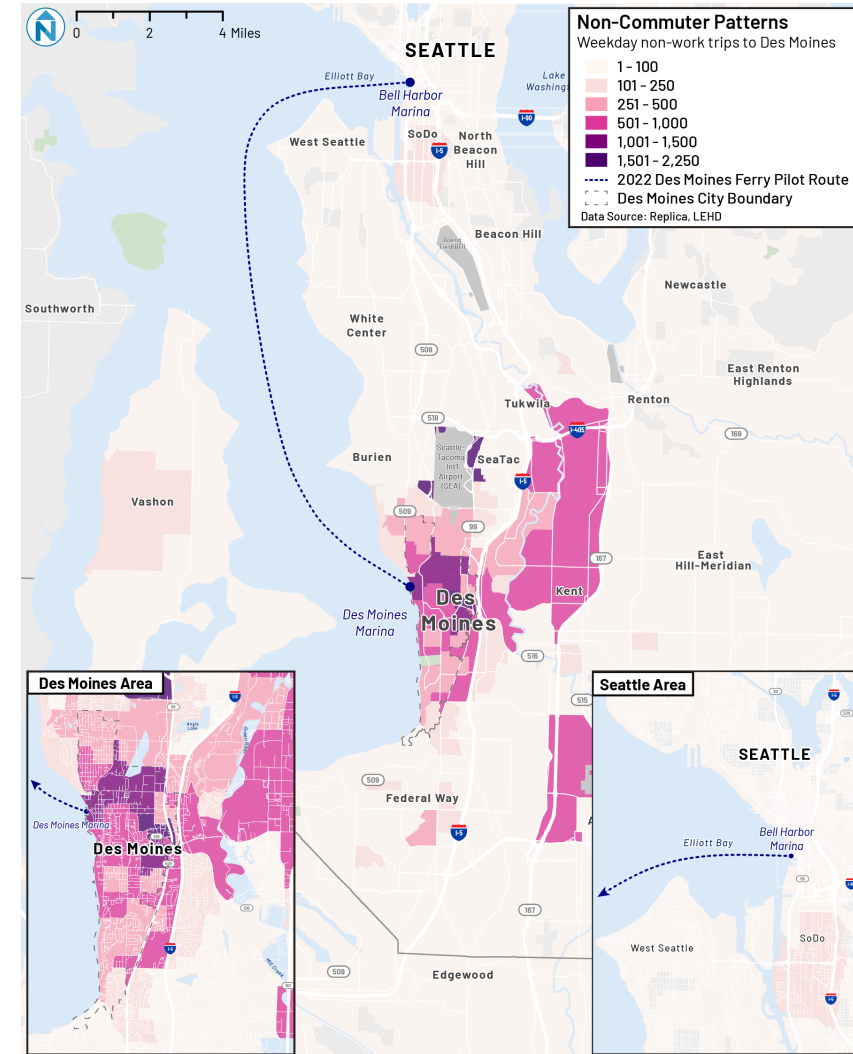
Market Analysis

- Overall moderate transit demand in Des Moines
- Most travel is to/from Kent, SeaTac, and Tukwila
- Link 1 Line is well suited for commuting
- Not a strong market today for regular ferry trips between downtown Seattle and Des Moines
- Potential to build a market for this ferry service

Work Commute Trips FROM Des Moines



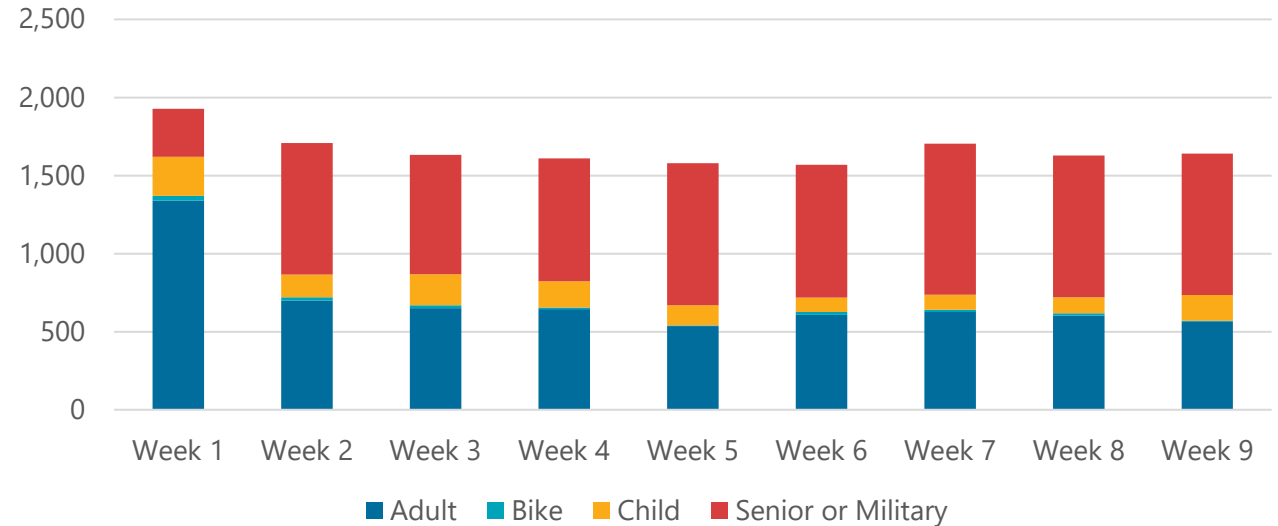
Non-Work Trips TO Des Moines



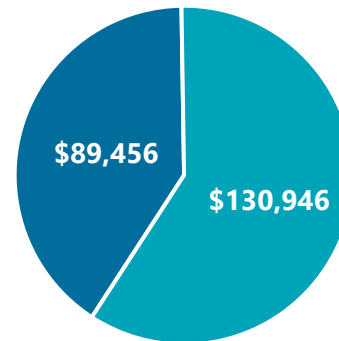
Ferry Pilot Evaluation

- Evaluation currently underway
- Limited by available data and participants
- Pilot ridership was significant
- Most ridership at beginning and end of service day
- Subsidized fare and service novelty likely contributed to high ridership
- Pilot success impacted by limited crew hours and vessel maintenance issues

2022 Ferry Ridership by Passenger Type and Week



2022 Ferry Farebox Recovery and Operating Costs



- Fare Revenue
- Operating Cost Not Covered by Farebox Revenue

2022 Ferry Pilot Schedule

Depart Des Moines	Depart Seattle
10:00 AM	11:00 AM
12:00 AM	1:00 PM
2:00 PM	3:00 PM
4:00 PM	5:00 PM



Next Steps

- Continue Pilot Evaluation
- Finish interviews and create public survey
 - Questions: experience with 2022 pilot, travel habits and preferences
- Explore Service Alternatives
 - Across multiple modes
 - Better connectivity to local destinations and regional transit network

Thank you!



Greg Nordin, Principal

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