



STATE OF MAINE
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 16 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet Mills
 GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
 COMMISSIONER

March 27, 2019

Dear Ferry Service Advisory Board Members,

It was a pleasure meeting with you at your March 14th Advisory Board meeting. I appreciated the constructive discussion and feedback. As stated at the meeting, and in my March 6th introductory letter, MaineDOT needs to put forward a revised rate proposal this week to extend the current rulemaking process while we further examine and consider options to address our projected deficit due to decreased ticket sales and budget increases. In advance of the revised rulemaking publication in early April, I wanted to provide this courtesy notification with the details of the revised proposal. It is important to re-emphasize that this proposal will be fully subject to change as a result of continued input and deliberations. We will be discussing other options that would change rates significantly.

You will recall that our goal is to establish a rate structure that will carry us through a four-year period. Our calculations and projections indicate that we need an overall increase in revenues by about 17% to cover this period. As previewed in earlier communications, and shown in the table below, we are putting forward a simple revised proposal that includes increases across the current flat rate structure by about 15% to 20% per rate item to reach the target budget need.

March 2019 Amended Proposed Rule			
	Current	Proposed	% Increase
Adult Round-Trip	\$11.00	\$13.00	18%
Child Round-Trip	\$5.50	\$6.50	18%
Vehicle (<20') Round-Trip	\$30.00	\$35.00	17%
Truck One-Way per Foot	\$2.50	\$3.00	20%
Truck Round-Trip per Foot	\$2.50	\$3.00	20%
Adult Bike Round-Trip	\$20.00	\$23.00	15%
Child Bike Round-Trip	\$10.00	\$11.50	15%
Reservvation	\$15.00	\$17.50	17%

We look forward to our continued collaboration with the Advisory Board on this issue, and to the additional input we will receive from the island communities, our customers, and the public. In addition to the Advisory Board meetings, we have scheduled a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 24th at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast as part of the formal rulemaking process, and we also anticipate other more local feedback meetings.

Again, the rates ultimately adopted could be very different depending on your feedback, so we ask that judgement be reserved until the rulemaking process gets further along.

Respectfully,

Bruce A. Van Note,
 Commissioner

cc: Select Board Chairs