



## STATE FINALIZING MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

By Frank Immel, chairman  
Fautleroy Ferry Advisory Committee

The project to address aging and seismic deficiencies of the Fautleroy Ferry Terminal is picking up speed.

Washington State Ferries is finalizing selection of a community advisory group for what's being called a "planning and environmental linkages study" to collect information from areas served on the triangle route (Fautleroy, Vashon, and Southworth). That information will carry forward into the environmental review process.

Several people in the community have applied for the advisory group. The list is to be finalized by late June, and we'll add it to the FCA website.

The most up-to-date information on the project itself is posted at [wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/faunteroy-terminal/home](http://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/faunteroy-terminal/home).

The ferry system continues to struggle with COVID-19 and its fleet to maintain service on this run and several others. Return of the customary three boats won't happen until mid-summer; until then, a smaller boat is on the run.

While ridership is down, long queues, illegal left turns, U-turns, and kids taking ferries back to school buildings continue to create hazards, especially during commute times and on weekends. Please be aware and alert when traveling through the area.



**Fautleroy Trestle & Transfer Span Replacement Project**

## FCA HAS SIGNS FOR THESE TIMES

Whether caused by lane reductions, closure of the West Seattle bridge, or something else, drivers seem to be using the residential streets of upper and lower Fautleroy to avoid arterial traffic and queuing.



The recent FCA survey reflected many complaints about speeding and pedestrian safety. As one response, FCA procured free warning signs from the city to make available to residents

on a first-come/first-served basis.

The brightly colored sign for crosswalks reads "All Intersections Are Crosswalks - Stop For Me." FCA is also ordering a supply of the city's various speeding signs.

If you would like one or more signs to stake on your property or a nearby traffic circle, email your request to [FCAForAll@gmail.com](mailto:FCAForAll@gmail.com).



## 'WATCH YOUR STEP' CAMPAIGN AIMED AT NOVICE DOG OWNERS

In 2004, the Fautleroy Watershed Council initiated a count of dog waste along a trail in Fautleroy Park favored by dog owners and their pets. Updates over the years have continued to monitor compliance with the city's ordinance requiring owners to scoop in order to keep trails clear and fecal bacteria out of Fautleroy Creek and Puget Sound.

This year's update is a project of the Martin family. Carina and Eddie are helping their daughters, fourth-grader Estela and first-grader Vivian, with monthly counts. On the trail, the girls mark deposits on a map and maintain a master map at home. When their study is over this fall, they will report problem locations and other findings to the watershed council and their classmates.

After two counts, the girls sounded the alarm that they were finding a lot of unscooped waste. They knew that many dogs had been adopted during the pandemic and thought their owners might not yet know "the rules of the road." The "Watch Your Step!" campaign is in response.

During their May 22 count, the girls marked each deposit with a colorful paper flag so all could see the magnitude of the problem. The flags suggested that veteran dog walkers chat with newcomers about scooping.

The flags will be pulled in early June but "Watch Your Step!" signage at major park entrances will remain as reminders.

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# SOMETHIN' FISHY'S BEEN GOING ON

Despite a year when many teachers across the city opted out of Salmon in the Schools, eight West Seattle schools persevered to put 600 coho fry into Fauntleroy Creek. That's about half the number in a normal year.

Masked students, parents, teachers, and volunteers released about two thirds of the fish in Fauntleroy Park and the remainder in the lower creek.

At the same time, smolts from last year's releases were leaving for their two years in saltwater. From mid March through May, volunteers Dennis Hinton and Pete Draughon checked soft traps in the upper and lower creek twice daily and, as of May 20, had documented 48 vigorous smolts.

"Although it's fewer than the 77 that left in 2020, it's among the highest since we began this study in 2003," Dennis said. "The data also tell us that juveniles are finding suitable habitat in all reaches of the creek."

Teams of students from Louisa Boren STEM continued two annual studies to understand if juveniles are likely to find enough food and clean water to survive their year in the creek.



Louisa Boren STEM students count stonefly exoskeletons in the lower creek while Dennis Hinton (left) checks for smolts leaving for saltwater. Photo courtesy Kersti Muul

Fall sampling documented abundance and diversity of aquatic insects in the upper and lower creek, and spring sampling documented the size and abundance of stoneflies in the lower creek. Both were similar to the prior year's findings.

## FCA BOARD WORKING TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RAISED BY RECENT SURVEY

By Catherine Bailey, FCA vice president

Traffic issues resulting from the bridge closure, car prowls, pedestrian safety, and ferry-related issues have been hot topics as the FCA Board continues to address concerns and opinions gleaned last fall from our 2020 community-wide survey.

FCA President Mike Dey recently shared survey data related to car prowls with staff at the Southwest Precinct. Prior to our survey, officers there did not have the data he was able to provide about the location of vehicles when they were prowled.

Of the almost 450 survey respondents, nearly half had experienced a car prowl and some reported having had more than one. Nearly half of those reported that the prowl had occurred while their vehicle was parked on the street. Those who parked in a carport or driveway didn't fare any better.

These findings underscore the importance of making a habit of always locking doors, closing windows, and hiding all valuables from sight. While these actions aren't likely to eliminate this type of crime, they will reduce opportunities for a potential car prowler and possibly avoid vehicle damage or theft.

The FCA Board has had multiple brainstorming sessions about what types of practical, inexpensive, and community-based strategies might relieve this and other issues raised by the survey.

For example, the board is weighing the potential benefit of meeting with local officials to put increased emphasis on improving traffic and detour patterns put in place after the bridge closure. Neighbors reported many negative impacts, including pedestrian safety, speeding, resident access, and noise.

Survey respondents added to our list of dangerous crosswalks, which we can easily address by installing more FCA-sponsored crossing flags. As reported elsewhere in this issue, we're also offering free signs that residents can post at trouble spots.

In addition, Board members and other volunteers are actively exploring ways to increase awareness of FCA. The survey revealed that many residents don't know about how FCA represents neighborhood interests and fosters a sense of community here.

In the coming weeks, look for a pop-up booth at busier points in the neighborhood. It will have basic information about FCA, how to join and get involved, and the many benefits of working together to improve this community.

Residents are always welcome at FCA business meetings, typically at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Register for these Zoom meetings at our website, [www.fauntleroy.net](http://www.fauntleroy.net). Also, share your views or suggestions with the board at any time by emailing [contact@fauntleroy.net](mailto:contact@fauntleroy.net).

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# SCHOOLHOUSE FAMILIAR TERRITORY FOR NEW DIRECTOR OF FAUNTLEROY CHILDREN'S CENTER

By Judy Pickens

In December when Cara Anderson-Ahrens became executive director of the Fauntleroy Children's Center, she was already familiar with the sights and sounds of the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse.

In 2009, she was there to help open a preschool that was to move to permanent quarters elsewhere in West Seattle. The stay was long enough for Cara to get to know Kim Sheridan, who retired in December after 42 years with the center, most as executive director.

"When I saw this job opening, I thought it was perfect," Cara said. The center's board agreed and, after a transitional period working with Kim, she took the reins at an especially challenging time.

The center is licensed for up to 120 children, from one month to 12 years of age. At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the state limited the number of children per room to 10 and last summer raised it to 20.

As public-health authorities relax restrictions and parents feel more confident about bringing their children to care, the center's staff has felt comfortable inching the numbers toward a return to full enrollment.

"While these changes feel big, daily attendance in each

classroom is still well under the guidelines set for us by licensing and accrediting agencies," Cara said.

She moved to Seattle from Nebraska in 1997 and earned a dual master's degree in education administration and curriculum development from Seattle University. She was most recently regional director for a group of five childcare centers in Snohomish and north King County.

Experience taught her not to step into a new job expecting to change what is already working well. As it turned out, pandemic safety precautions compelled her to make one major change right away.

To limit potential exposure, parents were having to leave their children at the door - no access to classrooms or play areas, no hallway chats with teachers. Extra communication with parents was imperative.

Cara introduced a program that enables teachers to send real-time images of what their children are doing to parents' smart phones throughout the day. In turn, parents can message teachers anytime.

"It proved to be a bigger step forward than I had planned but one that COVID pushed us to do," she said. "Now I'm looking for ways to support teachers without there being such big changes."

For example, Cara would like to apply her experience supporting children of immigrant and refugee families to increase economic and cultural diversity among the families the center serves. Currently about 8 percent of them receive in-house scholarships or aid from state and city programs, a number she hopes to boost to 10 percent.

Eight of the center's 28-member staff are of Somali heritage, and she credits those teachers with helping everyone see how diversity can play out in multiple respects. During Ramadan, for instance, colleagues learned how to show appreciation without offering one another food during the day.

One aspect of Cara's background would seem to be an outlier to qualifying for the job. Not so! As she explained, women's roller derby requires finesse because only one person can score but each score is a team effort.

"My job here isn't to knock everybody around but rather to see how many points I can help us score without rippling the waters," she said. "Roller derby is also about being strong women, and I celebrate being with the women here every day. They are experts in helping very young children realize their potential."



**Wearing silly hats is part of the job for Fauntleroy Children's Center Executive Director Cara Anderson-Ahrens.** Photo courtesy the center





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## PLAY AREA BACK ON CALENDAR

Construction to upgrade the south play area in Lincoln Park is finally on the near horizon.

In 2017, Seattle Parks and Recreation asked the public to help craft a fresh design that would make the site and play equipment more accessible to children of all ages and physical abilities. Snags and then the pandemic stalled the project but it's now expected to go out for bid this summer. Construction would start in the fall, with completion in late spring 2022.

Among elements that landscape architects are considering to give the area a marine theme is the 800-pound anchor and chain that Mark Sherman discovered during a dive in Fauntleroy Cove in the late 1990s.

Equipment design is undergoing final revisions. It will arc around a plaza with seating to monitor all the action. Learn the latest at [www.seattle.gov/parks/aboutus/current-projects/lincoln-park-south-play-area-renovation](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/aboutus/current-projects/lincoln-park-south-play-area-renovation).

## NUISANCE HOUSE FINALLY RAZED

By Susan Lantz-Dey, FCA Board member

An important function of FCA is working with the city to advocate for action to resolve problems. One such situation was the nuisance house on Fauntleroy Way SW, across from the north parking lot at Lincoln Park.

For years, this house was rundown. The people living there were always sketchy - dealing drugs; defaulting on utility payments, then stealing water and power from neighbors; racking up other law and code violations. After an attic fire took out much of the roof, people continued to live there under tarps.

At every FCA business meeting, we asked the Southwest Precinct's representative about the house's status and emphasized ongoing concerns of neighbors. Eventually, the city condemned the house and ordered it taken down to the foundation, which was left to stabilize the hillside behind it. We're hopeful that whoever buys the parcel will be sensitive to the character and scale of the neighborhood.



## INTRODUCING CUSTOM GIFT BOXES, NEW BAKERY HOURS

What began as an after-work hobby for Amanda Austin Haggerty grew during the pandemic to become a new Fauntleroy business. **Earnest Frivolity** specializes in gift boxes that are both thoughtful and playful.

While Amanda has boxes ready to go for new moms, bridesmaids, and other occasions, she really enjoys custom designing boxes for one-of-a-kind individuals or very specific groups. Thirty percent of profits go to organizations helping those less fortunate, as influenced by Amanda's customers. Details: [www.earnestfrivolity.com](http://www.earnestfrivolity.com).

Bernie Alonzo has increased hours at **The Original Bakery**. It's now open Wednesdays through Sunday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm and closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

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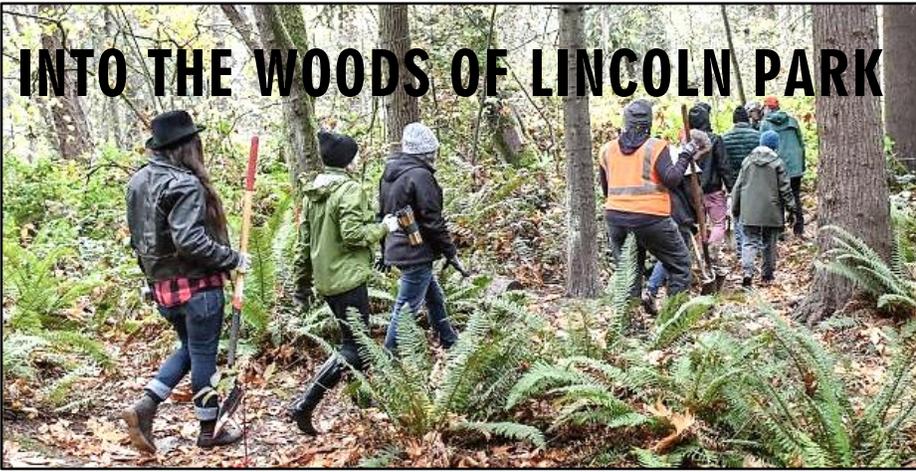
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# INTO THE WOODS OF LINCOLN PARK



*Kalee Snorden, an AmeriCorps stewardship associate with Forterra, did the interviews that became the basis for this article. Find her transcript at [green.seattle.org/category/volunteer-spotlight/](http://green.seattle.org/category/volunteer-spotlight/).*

## By Judy Pickens

One thing led to another for each of the four women who comprise the Lincoln Park forest steward team. Sharon Baker wanted to learn more about native plants. Sue Brimhall knew a lot about them and was a park neighbor. Lisa McGinty wanted to give back to her favorite running park. And Lisa Zander had a passion for increasing urban biodiversity.

After completing restoration training with the Washington Native Plant Society two decades ago, Sharon Baker breathed life back into Friends of Lincoln Park (FLiP), an early stewardship effort that had gone dormant. In 2004, the city formed the Green Seattle Partnership and soon offered the training that resulted in her

becoming the park's first volunteer forest steward.

The twice-monthly FLiP work parties she began organizing have introduced hundreds of volunteers to the park's extensive forested areas - and to what they could do at home to improve the habitat value of their own landscapes. Seattle Parks and Recreation honored her with its Denny stewardship award in 2018, the same year she stepped away from being the lead forest steward.

Freelance art director/designer Lisa McGinty began volunteering in 2009 and became a forest steward a year later. After a sojourn out of state, she resumed helping with restoration events in 2018 and soon stepped into being the lead.

In that role, she plans what to do and where during work parties, recruits individual and group volunteers, and ensures that they have a positive experience. She also manages social-media postings and is currently designing the FLiP website.

Sue Brimhall began volunteering in the park in 2014 and became a forest steward the following year. With time to give after retiring, "I felt drawn to work with nature and, viola, watch out invasives!"

Lisa Zander began helping restore Lincoln Park's forest while teaching middle-school science. She became a forest steward in 2018 and is among core volunteers during FLiP events.

"Volunteering at Lincoln Park is like medicine," she said. "After several hours under the trees exerting my body and telling stories, I leave feeling as if the park restored me, instead of the other way around."

Student, community, and business groups augment FLiP volunteers who

come regularly to pull, dig, plant, and mulch. FLiP also partners every year with the University of Washington to host environmental capstone interns, enabling them to pair study with hands-on experience.

Lincoln Park is a second-growth remnant of the vast forest ecosystem that the Duwamish and other Coast Salish people stewarded before colonial settlement introduced commercial logging.

"Under the weight of this history, it feels bold to think of myself as a land steward," said Lisa Zander. Attempting to repair even a small piece of the damage done, even as damage continues, feels like the most right and hopeful thing I can do for a better future."

"We are connected to our natural world in so many ways," Lisa McGinty added. "Without protection through restoration, so many of these connections will be lost."

To learn about upcoming stewardship events in Lincoln Park, email Lisa McGinty ([lmcginty206@gmail.com](mailto:lmcginty206@gmail.com)) or visit [seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/](http://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/). In line with public-health protocols, the number of participants in work parties is limited.

## ABOUT RESTORATION OF LINCOLN PARK'S FOREST

More than half of the park's 135 acres are forested. Douglas fir, Western red cedar, grand fir, Pacific madrone, bigleaf maple, and red alder dominate the canopy. Salal, ocean spray, snowberry, and other native shrub species comprise the understory. Sword fern and moss dominate the forest floor.

Non-native ornamental trees and shrubs are sprinkled throughout, as are invasive species, including Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, holly, and laurel.

During FLiP's last full year of stewardship activities in the park (2019), it hosted approximately 500 adults and youth during nearly 70 restoration events. These volunteers spent many of the 2,459 hours they gave installing more than 1,500 trees and other native plants.

FLiP encourages volunteers to register for events through the website at [seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/](http://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/).



Lisa McGinty



Lisa Zander



Sue Brimhall



Sharon Baker

# COMMUNITY EVENTS RETURNING!

**COMMUNITY BUSINESS:** The FCA Board meets on **Tuesday, June 8, and Tuesday, July 13, at 7:00 pm.** Register at [www.faultleroy.net/meetings](http://www.faultleroy.net/meetings) to attend these Zoom meetings. Contact FCA President Mike Dey at [msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com) or 206-661-0673 to suggest an agenda topic.

## LOW TIDE AT THE BEACH

Volunteer beach naturalists will be on the south beach at Lincoln Park to offer free low-tide explorations as follows. Expect to follow current public-health guidelines.:

June 12 11am-2pm	July 9 10:15am-12:15pm
June 13 11:30am-2:30pm	July 10 10:30am-1pm
June 23 9:15am-12:15pm*	July 11 11am-1:30pm-
June 24 9:30am-1:30pm*	July 23 9:30am-12:30pm
June 25 10am-2pm*	July 24 9:45am-12:45pm
June 26 10:45am-2:45pm*	July 25 11am-1:30pm
June 27 11:30am-3pm*	August 8 10am-noon
* especially low tide	August 9 11am-1pm

**2ND TIME SALE:** This huge community sale will return on **Saturday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 19,** at Fauntleroy Church. See [www.faultleroyucc.org/2nd-time-sale](http://www.faultleroyucc.org/2nd-time-sale) for details about donating quality items and check the *West Seattle Blog* for hours closer to the sale.

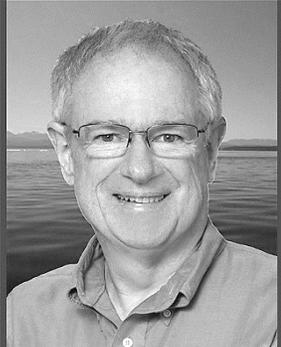
**RECYCLE ROUNDUP:** The fall roundup will be **Sunday, Sept. 26,** in the Fauntleroy Church parking lot. Watch [www.faultleroyucc.org](http://www.faultleroyucc.org) or the *West Seattle Blog* for updated lists of what 1 Green Planet will take and not take for free, responsible recycling.

**FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL:** This wildly popular community event will be back in some form in October. Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for details about the festival itself and fund-raising to help keep it free.

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## CHILDREN'S CENTER AUCTION INCLUDES OPTION TO DINE IN STYLE

"I'm Still Standin'" is the theme for the Fauntleroy Children's Center's 34th annual auction **June 7-13.**

Planners hope to raise \$50,000 during the online event for scholarships for families in need, continuing education for staff members, field trips, outdoor toys, and classroom materials. Visit [fauntleroycc.schoolauction.net/auction2021](http://fauntleroycc.schoolauction.net/auction2021) to set up a bidding account, view the auction catalog, bid, or simply donate.

Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering is offering delicious meals that further benefit the center. Choose from four entrées, plus hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and wine (if you're 21 or older) at [tuxedosandtennissshoes.gethoneycart.com/?order\\_type=28](http://tuxedosandtennissshoes.gethoneycart.com/?order_type=28).

Seattle delivery will be on Thursday, June 10, OR you may pick up your meals at the Hall @ Fauntleroy that day. They will be packaged to refrigerate and reheat later. Place your order by **June 6** at 11:59 pm and select "FCC 34th Auction" to benefit the center.

## FCA'S BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

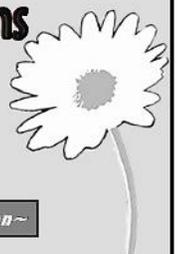
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## FROM PAST TO PRESENT

# LINCOLN PARK'S 'CAMP FIRE CIRCLE' REFLECTS FOND MEMORIES

By Judy Pickens

*A question about the origin of "Camp Fire Circle" in Lincoln Park led me to alumna with memories of growing up with Camp Fire in this area.*

Boy Scouts arrived in the United States in 1910, just two years after its founding in England, and American boys flocked to its outdoor-oriented program. But what about the girls?

Camp Fire immediately began filling that void, giving the first nonsectarian, interracial, national organization for girls a two-year head start on Girl Scouts in this country.

By 1911, Camp Fire groups were beginning to sprout in the Seattle area. Eight years of growth later, the Seattle Council of Camp Fire got its charter and soon had an office, executive director, and camp. By the 1930s, what is now known as the Central Puget Sound Council of Camp Fire had 22,000 members and was seesawing with Portland as the largest council in the country.

At that time, girls could join when they reached second grade. Now programming extends from pre-K through high school, and nearly half of Camp Fire members are boys. Lulu Fairbanks was the first group leader in West Seattle and she sparked many more to form on the peninsula.

In 1969, groups throughout West Seattle and Burien (then called the "Westline District") took on funding and construction of the fire pit near Lincoln Park's shelter 2. The fire pit would commemorate the area council's 50th anniversary and, coincidentally, national Camp Fire's 60th anniversary. Planners chose a triangular shape to echo the Camp Fire logo.

Lorrie Scott is an alumna now helping maintain the archives for this Camp Fire council. She said that groups were then allowed one fund-raiser a year in addition to selling mints and that they likely had car washes to fund the project. The project budget included purchasing the supplies that each group would need to make a tile to inlay in the concrete wall encircling the pit.

More than a century ago, a Native American friend of Camp Fire's founders created images to express gratitude for the earth, water, and air. Each group chose one of these "symbol grams" for its tile. Such cultural appropriation is no longer done but Lorrie recalls how it helped her develop a deep appreciation for indigenous peoples.

The dedication ceremony for "Camp Fire Circle" was in the summer of 1969, and another alumna, Cathy Thompson, was there. She was excited that Mayor Wes Uhlman was to speak but, alas, something came up and his wife, Leila, stood in for him. Cathy's disappointment soon passed, though, and she has returned many times to show her children and now a grandchild her group's tile.

Another big anniversary event for area members came close on the heels of the fire pit's dedication: a gala in the old Coliseum arena.

"Thousands of girls and their leaders descended on Seattle Center because Bobby Sherman, an actor from *Here Come the Brides*, was headlining the program," Cathy said. "It was my first experience with a screaming mob of fans!"



**"Symbol gram" tiles made by Camp Fire groups rim the large fire pit.** Photos courtesy Connie Hinton



Lincoln Park's Camp Fire Circle is open to anyone wanting to use it in lieu of a beach fire, which is not allowed. District Maintenance Chief Carol Baker asks that you bring only regular firewood, not pallets or other wood that could leave nails behind.

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# FOCUS DURING PLANNING FOR TERMINAL UPGRADE ON QUALITY OF LIFE HERE

By FCA President Mike Dey

Happy spring!! With the improving weather and the turn of events in our defense against the CoV2 virus, I do, indeed, feel a spring in my step (no pun intended) and so enjoy seeing the profusion of buds turning into flowers.

It's been a busy time for FCA, as well. Our winter plantings have burst into brilliant color in the Endolyne business area, we've teamed with the Seattle Police Department to address the persistent problem of car prowls, and we're working to alleviate neighborhood traffic problems associated with the high bridge closure.

As spring began to unfold, Washington State Ferries launched its formal outreach process for restoration of the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal. Rest assured; our collective voice will be loud during this process.

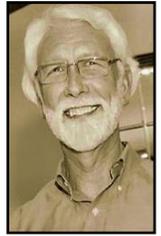
FCA has been dealing with "fixing" this terminal since the 1980s, when we repelled efforts to turn Fauntleroy Way SW into a state highway like Aurora (Highway 99) and add a second ferry slip. The West Seattle community objected strenuously, as did the City Council.

The current need to update the terminal has the potential to drift that way again. We've already issued early recommendations supporting renovations aimed at ensuring the safety of ferry workers and riders. What we do not support is expansion of the current footprint.

Solving the loading problem during rush hour is high on the state's priority list. It is purely a logistical one,

however, that technology can solve, without further encroachment on our community.

Our priority is protecting the greater West Seattle community from devolving into a thoroughfare to somewhere else. Our focus is quality of life throughout the peninsula, not just in Fauntleroy.



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