

Portland, OR



Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study



In February 2006, the City of Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT), Bureau of Planning (BOP), and River Renaissance Initiative (RRI) hired Nelson\Nygaard to evaluate the feasibility of passenger ferry service on the Willamette River. Nelson\Nygaard staff led a multidisciplinary team that evaluated over 20 potential terminal locations and proposed interim and long-term operating plans. The study was completed on an accelerated five-month timeline, and focused on two distinct markets:

Commuter operations designed to provide supplemental line haul service during peak hours from population centers on the Willamette River to downtown Portland.

Intracity circulator services (both year-round and seasonal) that would connect important destinations within Portland's Central City and provide river excursion trips for visitors and residents.

Nelson\Nygaard evaluated a wide range of variables related to service feasibility and start-up, including vessel types and capacity, terminal siting and development, preliminary ridership estimates, operating and capital costs, funding options, marketing, parking requirements for terminals and landside integration with public transit and pedestrian networks, a review of management structures, and potential economic and development impacts.

Project Duration: 2/2006 – 6/2006

Total Budget: \$40,000

Nelson\Nygaard Budget: \$32,000

For more information:

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