

# McElroy & Donaldson

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May 14, 2024

Luly Massaro, Clerk  
Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

**Re: Docket No. 24-12-FR / Interstate Navigation Company  
Proposed Rate Change for High-Speed Ferry Service**

Dear Luly:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and nine (9) copies of Interstate Navigation Company's Responses to the Commission's First Set of Data Requests.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Leah J. Donaldson

Cc: Service List (via email)

**Docket No. 24-12-FR – Interstate Navigation Co. - Rate Change for Hi-Speed Ferry Service  
Service List as of 3/14/2024**

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Interstate Navigation Co.</b> Leah J. Donaldson, Esq. McElroy & Donaldson 21 Dryden Lane Providence, RI 02904	<a href="mailto:leah@mcelroydonaldson.com">leah@mcelroydonaldson.com</a> ;	401-351-4100
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<b>File an original &amp; nine (9) copies w/:</b> Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk <b>Public Utilities Commission</b> 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick RI 02888	<a href="mailto:Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov">Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov</a> ;	401-780-2107
	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov">Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov</a> ;	
	<a href="mailto:Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov">Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov</a> ;	
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY :  
PROPOSED RATE CHANGE FOR HIGH-SPEED : DOCKET NO. 24-12-FR  
FERRY SERVICE :

INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY'S RESPONSES TO  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS  
*(Issued March 27, 2024)*

- 1-1. For each new proposed rate category, please explain why there is a new proposed rate. For each, please explain how Interstate was previously charging for these items. Please also explain why an electric bike is different from a bike.

**RESPONSE:**

On our high-speed vessels, bicycles, surfboards, tandem bikes, electric bikes, electric scooters, beach wagons, and the like are transported in the limited open deck space.

**Electric Bike:**

Electric bikes are much heavier and larger than traditional bicycles. They require much more crew handling and a higher level of care. Because of their size, they occupy more deck space and reduce the total amount of bicycles that we can carry. We currently treat these as 'bicycles' and charge \$4.00 one way for these.

**Tandem Bike with Attachment:**

Tandem bikes with attachments require high amounts of crew handling. Tandem bikes with attachments take up twice as much deck space as standard bikes. We currently treat these as 'tandem bicycles' and charge \$7.00 one way for these.

**Electric Scooter / Skateboard:**

Electric scooters and electric skateboards are larger and heavier than nonmotorized ones. They require more crew handling and must be stowed on the outside decks along with bikes. We currently treat these as 'bicycles' and charge \$4.00 one way for these.

**Beach Cart and Wagon:**

Beach carts and wagons have become increasingly popular in recent years. They must be stored on the open decks and take up precious deck space. They take up as much space as a bike and require as much crew handling as a bike. We currently do not charge for these.

*Prepared by Joshua P. Linda.*

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1-2. The following is a screenshot from Interstate’s Hi-Speed ferry page:

High Speed Ferry Rates	One Way	Round Trip
BICYCLE	\$4.00	\$8.00
ELECTRIC BIKES (Maximum weight is 50lbs)	\$10.00	\$20.00
Due to restrictions in our loading process, we have established a 50lb weight limit. Electric Bikes over 50lbs must be transported on the Traditional Ferry		
ELECTRIC SCOOTERS	\$4.00	\$8.00
ELECTRIC SKATEBOARDS	\$4.00	\$8.00

Please explain why there are rates for electric scooters, electric and electric bikes but no current tariff language or rates for these items.

**RESPONSE:**

These rates were charged in error, and we sincerely apologize to the Commission for not seeking authorization prior to their implementation. Our intention was to request approval of these rates within the next rate case. Regrettably, we mistakenly began charging these rates prior to receiving authorization. We understand the importance of adhering to regulatory procedures and regret this oversight. These rates have been removed from our website. See screenshot below.

High Speed Ferry Rates	One Way	Round Trip
BICYCLE (Maximum weight is 50lbs)	\$4.00	\$8.00
BICYCLE W/ATTACHMENT (Trailer, Wagon, Extension) OR TANDEM BICYCLE* (Maximum weight is 50lbs) <small>*This ticket is NOT available for sale online. Ticket may be purchased, on the day of travel, at the ticket window as space allows.</small>	\$7.00	\$14.00
SURFBOARD* <small>*This ticket is NOT available for sale online. Ticket may be purchased, on the day of travel, at the ticket window as space allows.</small>	\$8.00	

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- 1-3. Interstate has the 2024 High-Speed Ferry schedule posted along with the current rates. Will that landing page be adjusted to provide notice to customers that the rates are proposed to increase prior to the Company opening sales for the season? If so, when?

**RESPONSE:**

Interstate has noted the proposed rate change on our website. The screenshot below is taken from our high-speed ferry rates page. See relevant portion circled in red.

**FARES**

POINT JUDITH (GALILEE)

– Passenger

High Speed Ferry Rates	One Way	Round Trip
ADULT (Ages 12 and up)	\$25.50	\$51.00
CHILD (Age 5-11)	\$15.00	\$30.00
INFANTS (Age 0-4)	\$6.00	\$12.00

+ Bicycles and Surfboards

**PLEASE NOTE:** The above rates are current. However, rates are subject to a pending rate increase filing. Please [click here](#) for the proposed rates for the 2024 season rates.

**Accepted Payments: CASH, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER, MASTER CARD or VISA.** Rates include municipal landing fees. All rates subject to a rate increase at a future date without notice.

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The phrase ‘click here’ on the screenshot above (circled in red), links to the following chart detailing the proposed rates (see screenshot below):

[https://www.blockislandferry.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BIF-HS-RateChange\\_May2024\\_Web.pdf](https://www.blockislandferry.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BIF-HS-RateChange_May2024_Web.pdf)

Interstate Navigation Company Proposed Rate Change for High-Speed Ferry Service						
	CURRENT		PROPOSED		DIFFERENCE	
	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip
Adult (12+ yrs)	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$28.00	\$56.00	\$3.00	\$6.00
Child (5-11 yrs)	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	None	None
Infant (0-4 yrs)	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
Bike	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$4.00	\$8.00
Bike w/ attachment	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$32.00	\$9.00	\$18.00
Tandem bike	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$32.00	\$9.00	\$18.00
Tandem bike w/ attachment	None	None	\$21.00	\$42.00	\$21.00	\$42.00
Electric bike	None	None	\$16.00	\$32.00	\$16.00	\$32.00
Electric scooter / skateboard	None	None	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
Surfboard	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$2.00	\$4.00
Beach cart / wagon	None	None	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$8.00	\$16.00

*Prepared by Joshua P. Linda.*