



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

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**To: Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission**

**From: Mark Simpkins, Deputy Chief of Legal Services
Division of Public Utilities & Carriers**

Date: June 25, 2024

**Re: Docket 24-12-FR: Interstate Navigation Co. d/b/a The Block Island Ferry -
Proposed Fast Ferry Rate Filing Between Point Judith and Block Island**

On April 19, 2024, Interstate Navigation Company (“Interstate” or “Company”) filed a rate change application with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) seeking an increase in passenger rates for its seasonal fast ferry¹ service between Point Judith and Block Island. The filing seeks expedited approval for rates to become effective within thirty (30) days, with a waiver/exemption from suspension, hearing and investigation requirements provided in RIGL § 39-3-11 and § 39-3-12. Interstate published notice to the public of this proposed rate increase. In support of its filing, Interstate provided direct testimony from Josh P. Linda, Vice President of Interstate. Mr. Linda explained that Interstate’s high-speed ferry rates have not increased since July 2020, yet the expenses associated with operating the high-speed ferry have significantly increased. The inflation rate (CPI), as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, has increased by over 19% since July 2020. Mr. Linda also explained that Interstate is not proposing any changes to the current rate structure for its seasonal high-speed passenger service between Newport and Block Island and is not proposing any changes to the current rate structure for its traditional ferry service, which provides year-round lifeline service between Point Judith and Block Island.²

¹ The fast ferry service is also referred to as “high speed” service.

² Testimony of Josh P. Linda, pp. 2-4.

As explained in the filing, Interstate seeks to increase the fast ferry passenger rates as follows:

	Current		Proposed		Difference	
	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip
Adult (12+)	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$28.00	\$56.00	\$3.00	\$6.00
Child (5-11)	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Infant (0-4)	\$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 with 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	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	\$21.00	\$42.00	\$21.00	\$42.00
Electric bike	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	\$16.00	\$32.00	\$16.00	\$32.00
Electric Scooter / Skateboard	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
Surfboard	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$2.00	\$4.00
Beach Cart / Wagon	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$8.00	\$16.00

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”), recognizes the nature of Interstate’s fast ferry as a purely discretionary service. Likewise, the Division acknowledges the regulatory history in which the Division has agreed, pursuant to the approved Settlement in Interstate’s 2006 General Rate Filing in Docket 3762, to accept (not object to) changes to Interstate’s fast ferry rates, terms and conditions, with thirty (30) days’ notice and without a comprehensive rate proceeding, except in “extraordinary circumstances.” After careful review of Interstate’s proposed rate increase, the Division has no objection to Interstate’s new rates without the requirements of a full rate case.