



Tuesday, April 30, 2024

City of Mackinac Island
City Council
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to clarify our updated policies regarding bicycle transportation to Mackinac Island, with a focus on fostering understanding and cooperation between the ferry service and the community.

We have observed recent promotions in various off-island advertising media suggesting that the purchase of a Mackinac Island bike license includes the cost of ferry transportation. We understand this may not have been the intent; however, it has led to some confusion among our customers. We believe it is crucial to clarify that the bicycle licenses sold by the island cover only the permission to have bicycles on the island and do not include the transportation fees incurred by ferry services.

To address this and to ensure the sustainability of our operations, we have found it necessary to continue charging for all bicycle transportation, even for bicycles holding an island license. However, it is important to note that we do not charge these customers for the bike license itself—only the transportation fee.

This decision is driven by several key considerations:

1. **Misleading Promotions:** The suggestion that purchasing a Mackinac Island Bike License allows for free ferry transportation has been misleading and impacts our operational integrity.
2. **Operational Costs:** Our fees are essential in covering the costs of ferry operations, such as fuel, maintenance, and labor, ensuring that we can continue to offer a reliable service to all our passengers.
3. **Safety and Efficiency:** The increase in large, fat tire and electric bicycles has significantly impacted the available space for other luggage and freight. Managing the logistics of loading and unloading these heavier bikes also affects our ability to depart on schedule. Encouraging frequent visitors to leave their bicycles on the island will help streamline this process and enhance our service timeliness.

We believe that clarifying these points will help all parties understand the rationale behind our policies and foster a cooperative relationship moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We value our role in serving the community and visitors of Mackinac Island and appreciate the opportunity to explain our position.

Sincerely,

Jerry Fetty

The original Mackinac Island Ferry since 1878

801 South Huron Avenue, Mackinaw City, Michigan 49701
(800) 638-9892 | MackinacFerry.com