

Arnold Transit Company
99 State Street
St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

Date: October 8, 2025

To:
City of Mackinac Island
City Council
7528 Market Street
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Subject: 2025–2026 Winter Ferry Service Plan

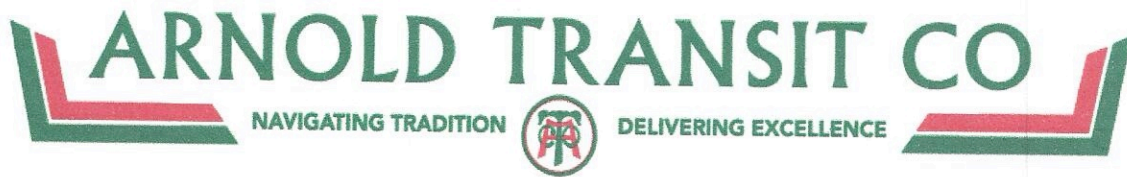
Dear Mayor Doud and Members of the City Council,

Arnold Transit Company (ATCo) respectfully submits the following summary of its **Winter Service Plan for the 2025–2026 operating season**, covering the period **November 1, 2025 through April 20, 2026**. This plan outlines the facilities, vessels, parking, and shuttle services that will be available to support continued safe and reliable passenger transportation between St. Ignace and Mackinac Island throughout the winter months.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "V. Dobrowolski".

Veronica Dobrowolski
President
Arnold Transit Company
587 N. State St., St. Ignace, MI 49781



1. Facilities for Passenger Use

St. Ignace – Arnold Transit Company Classic Dock

All ferry departures will originate from the Arnold Transit Company Classic Dock, located at 99 State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781. This facility provides a ticket office, heated waiting area, restrooms, and dock store for passenger convenience.

Mackinac Island – Arnold Transit Company Main Dock

All ferries will arrive at the Arnold Transit Company Main Dock, located at 7271 Main Street, Mackinac Island, MI 49757. This dock includes a ticket office, heated waiting area, restrooms, and dock store to serve passengers on the island.

2. Vessels Planned for Winter Service

Steel-Hulled Ferries

M/V Huron

The *Huron* is a single-screw, steel-hulled vessel certified by the U.S. Coast Guard for 270 passengers. In service since 1955, the *Huron* has proven to be a dependable vessel for winter operations. The vessel underwent extensive refits and upgrades in 2025 and is expected to serve as the primary winter vessel once retrofits are completed and she returns to service.

M/V Ottawa

The *Ottawa* is a twin-screw, steel-hulled ferry certified to carry 470 passengers. Significant upgrades were completed during the 2024–2025 season, including generator enhancements to support passenger cabin heating. Upon the *Huron*'s return to service, the *Ottawa* will remain in the water and be available as a backup vessel.

M/V Straits of Mackinac II

The *Straits of Mackinac II* is a twin-screw, steel-hulled ferry certified for 295 passengers. It includes an enclosed heated cabin and will be used as a secondary backup vessel for winter operations. Once the mighty *Huron* resumes primary service, the *Straits of Mackinac II* will be placed in dry dock.

M/V Senator

The *Senator*, owned by Arnold Freight Company, will be available for use on an as-needed basis to provide additional backup capacity. This steel-hulled vessel can accommodate passengers internally and through coordinated bus transport if required during peak or emergency conditions.



Fast Ferries

Fast ferries will be utilized early in the season when passenger demand, weather conditions, and scheduling allow. As these vessels lack heating systems in both passenger and mechanical spaces, their use will depend on temperature, safety, and operational needs. Arnold Transit Company retains sole discretion in determining which vessels are deployed at any given time.

M/V Marquette II – Twin-screw, aluminum-hulled ferry certified for 330 passengers.

M/V LaSalle – Twin-screw, aluminum-hulled ferry certified for 150 passengers.

3. Parking Areas Planned for Use

All vehicles parked on any **Arnold Transit property**, whether for day use or overnight, will be required to be registered and display a valid permit in the windshield or be registered through the **ATCo Five-Star Parking System**.

547 primary outdoor parking spots with 500+ additionally available. 20 Indoor parking spots with valet services available. 1067 + total available parking spots.

1. **St. Ignace Classic dock located at 99 N State Street, St Ignace Mi. (Formally Dock 2 or Freight Dock).** This dock is organized into three separate parking areas. On the proper dock handicap/paid parking, free daily parking, and paid seasonal lot.
 - a. **Total parking spots 347.**
2. **St. Ignace Railroad Dock located at 253 S State Street St Ignace Mi (Formally Dock 1).** The railroad dock is utilized for free overnight and free winter season parking. In the Ice-out conditions the dock will be utilized for parking and staging for the “Ice Bridge”.
 - a. **200 parking spots available on the dock and 100+ additional spots across the street.**
3. **St. Ignace Main Dock located at 587 N State Street St Ignace Mi (Formally Dock #3).** Has additional free parking overnight on dock and free overnight and winter season parking across the street. .
 - a. **150 parking spots are available on dock and 250+ additional spots across street.**

4. Shuttle Service

Arnold Transit Company will continue providing free courtesy shuttle service to island residents and passengers alike. These services shuttle guests to and from mainland locations, such as Arnold Transit parking lots, St Ignace airports, area hotels, doctor appointments, and other designated locations free of charge.

Weather Contingency:

In the event that winter ice conditions prevent safe ferry passage for more than five (5) consecutive days, shuttle service will be temporarily suspended after the fifth day and will resume once ferry service safely recommences.



5. Winter Service Tickets. November 1, 2025 thru April 20, 2026

Adult Round Trip Winter Ticket (includes Winter Surcharge)	\$44.00
Adult 1-Way Trip Winter Ticket (includes Winter Surcharge)	\$30.00
Child (5-12) Round Trip Winter Ticket (includes Winter Surcharge).....	\$32.00
Child (5-12) 1-Way Trip Winter Ticket (includes Winter Surcharge)	\$22.00
Child (under 4).....	No charge (Ticket Required)

Military Rates (Requires ID)

Adult Round Trip Winter Ticket	\$34.00
Child (5-12) Round Trip Winter Ticket	\$26.00

Commuters and Frequent Travelers:

40 Ride Commuter Book Winter Service	\$560.00
20 Ride Commuter Book Winter Service	\$300.00

Winter Surcharge Ticket (1 way).....	\$5.00
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The Winter Surcharge is required to be used in conjunction with a valid ATCo 2025 summer season ticket to travel on 2025-2026 Winter Service. A winter surcharge ticket is also required and can be used with a valid 2025 Shepler's resident pass to travel on winter service.

2025 Arnold Transit Annual Pass (Valid until April 20, 2026)

Season Pass Year-round (Non-Resident)	\$965.00
Island Resident Pass Adult* (4/21 to 4/20).....	\$245.00
Island Resident Pass Child* (age 5-17).....	\$150.00
Island Resident Infant* (under 5)	FREE

*Requires verification of residency. Verification includes: valid driver's license or official state ID with Mackinac Island address (PO Boxes not accepted), voter registration with Mackinac Island address (PO Boxes not accepted). Or Mackinac Island Property tax statement with your name on it.

6. Text communication

Text Notification Service:

- ATCo will continue to provide the Texting notification service which communicates schedule changes and other ferry operation information to passengers as quick as possible.



6. Winter 2025-2026 boat Schedule

See schedule on next page

2025-2026 Ferry Schedule



Depart St Ignace Classic Dock 99 North State Street, St. Ignace	Depart Mackinac Island Main Dock 7271 Main Street, Mackinac Island
November 1 - November 26	
7:30 *	8:30 *
9:30 **	10:30 **
11:30	12:30
2:00	3:00
4:00	5:00
November 27 (Thanksgiving Day)	
8:30	9:30
12:30	1:30
November 28- December 24	
7:30 *	8:30 *
11:30	12:30
1:30	2:30
3:30	4:30 +
December 25 No Service Christmas Day	
December 26-January 1st	
7:30 *	8:30 *
9:30	10:30
11:30	12:30
2:00	3:00
4:00	5:00
January 2 - January 31	
8:00 *	9:00 *
11:30	12:30
3:00	4:00
February 1- March 8	
8:00 *	9:00 *
11:30	12:30
4:00	5:00
March 9 - March 31	
7:30 *	8:30 *
11:30	12:30
4:30	5:30
April 1 - April 13	
7:30 *	8:30 *
11:30	12:30
2:00	3:00
4:30	5:30
April 14 - April 20	
7:30 *	8:30 *
9:30	10:30
11:30	12:30
2:00	3:00
4:30	5:30
April 21- SUMMER STARTS	

* RED- Does Not Run on Sundays

** Blue - 9:30/10:30 runs Nov 1 thru Nov 8 only

+ Green - Last boat moves to 6:30pm for tree lighting and Baazar