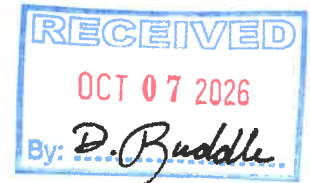




Arnold Transit Company
99 State Street
St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

Date: October 7, 2026



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

Subject: 2026–2027 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 2026–2027 operating season**, covering the period **November 1, 2026 through April 20, 2027**. 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.

There are two schedules attached for review.

- Option 1 is the 2025/2026 submitted schedule with the dates updated to match the 2026/2027 winter calendar. The only change is that the 5 daily trips in November have been extended through November 14th for the 2026/ 2027 winter service schedule.
- Option 2 is a proposed schedule that moves the 11:30 am over, 12:30 pm return trip to 9:30 am over and 10:30 am return trip. This proposed change is based on feedback received last winter.

Both winter service schedules provide a strong framework for Arnold Transit's 2026/ 2027 winter service, and we ask the Council to select between **Option 1 or Option 2** so we can finalize the schedule and move forward with the upcoming season.

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, restroom, and dock store to serve passengers on the island.

2. Vessels Planned for Winter Service

Steel-Hulled Ferries

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.

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 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 is undergoing extensive refits and upgrades and will return to service when all work is completed and approved by the USCG.

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 allows. 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 Cadillac – Twin-screw, aluminum-hulled ferry certified for 150 passengers.

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

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

3. Parking Areas Planned for Use

There will be free Day Parking in the Ace Lot for workers commuting. No registration is required. All vehicles will need to be removed nightly for snow removal.

Vehicles parked in any other **Arnold Transit Lot** will be required to be registered, display a valid permit in the windshield or be registered through the ATCo Five-Star Online 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.** This dock is organized into three separate parking areas. **Total parking spots 347.**
 1. On the proper dock handicap and paid parking.
 2. Free daily parking in the Ace Lot. No registration required for Ace Lot Only.
 3. Paid daily, overnight and winter seasonal parking in the McGregor Lot. All vehicles must be registered for daily, overnight or seasonal parking.
2. **St. Ignace Railroad Dock located at 253 S State Street St Ignace MI.** 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 for the "Ice Bridge". All vehicles must be registered for daily, overnight or seasonal parking.
 1. 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.** Has additional free day parking and free overnight parking for overflow. All vehicles must be registered for daily or overnight parking.
 1. 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, Area Hotels, St Ignace Airport for guests flying, St Ignace Hospital for guests needing medical attention, 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, 2026 thru April 20, 2027

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 2026 summer season ticket to travel on 2026-2027 Winter Service. A winter surcharge ticket is also required and can be used with a valid 2026 Shepler's resident pass to travel on winter service.

2026 Arnold Transit Annual Pass (Valid until April 20, 2027)

Season Pass Year-round (Non-Resident)	\$965.00
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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 2026-2027 boat Schedule

See schedule on next page

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OR 10/7/24

Option 1

Depart St Ignace Classic Dock
99 North State Street, St. Ignace

Depart Mackinac Island Main Dock
7271 Main Street, Mackinac Island

November 1 - November 25

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:00

Nov 1 Through Nov 14 only

8:30

10:30

12:30

3:00

5:00

November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

8:30

12:30

9:30

1:30

November 27- December 24

7:30

11:30

1:30

3:30

8:30

12:30

2:30

4:30 +

December 4 and 5 Last Boat 6:30

December 25

No Service Christmas Day

December 26-January 3

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:00

8:30

10:30

12:30

3:00

5:00

January 4 - January 31

8:00

11:30

3:00

9:00

12:30

4:00

February 1- March 7

8:00

11:30

4:00

9:00

12:30

5:00

March 8 - March 28

7:30

11:30

4:30

8:30

12:30

5:30

March 29 - April 11

7:30

11:30

2:00

4:30

8:30

12:30

3:00

5:30

April 12 - April 20

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:30

8:30

10:30

12:30

3:00

5:30

April 21- SUMMER SERVICE STARTS

RED- Does Not Run on Sundays

BLUE- 11:30 / 12:30 Runs Nov 1 Thru Nov 14 Only

GREEN- Last boat moves to 6:30 pm for Tree Lighting and Bazaar

7 of 10
 DR 10/7/24

8 of 10 - BLANK
OR 10/1/26

Option 2

Depart St Ignace Classic Dock
99 North State Street, St. Ignace

Depart Mackinac Island Main Dock
7271 Main Street, Mackinac Island

November 1 - November 25

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:00

Nov 1 Through Nov 14 only

8:30

10:30

12:30

3:00

5:00

November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

8:30

12:30

9:30

1:30

November 27 - December 24

7:30

9:30

1:30

3:30

December 4 and 5 Last Boat 6:30

8:30

10:30

2:30

4:30 +

December 25

No Service Christmas Day

December 26-January 3

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:00

8:30

10:30

12:30

3:00

5:00

January 4 - January 31

8:00

11:30

3:00

9:00

12:30

4:00

February 1- March 7

8:00

11:30

4:00

9:00

12:30

5:00

March 8 - March 28

7:30

11:30

4:30

8:30

12:30

5:30

March 29 - April 11

7:30

9:30

2:00

4:30

8:30

10:30

3:00

5:30

April 12 - April 20

7:30

9:30

11:30

2:00

4:30

8:30

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9 of 10
 DR 10/7/26

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