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Water Transit Authority
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- ◆ Updates on meetings & projects
- ◆ "One stop shop" for ferry schedules
- ◆ Suggested ferry trips and destinations



We welcome your comments and questions.
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FERRYBOAT CONSTRUCTION COMMENCING

From prequalification of interested boatyards to review of Technical and Cost Proposals, the WTA has launched into the procurement process for its first two ferryboats. These "spare boats" are funded with new bridge tolls from Regional Measure 2 and will be available to existing operators in case their boats are out of service for repairs or if local operators need increased passenger capacity. Later, the boats can be phased into various WTA service routes. Being a leader in the maritime environmental arena, the WTA set the following boat standards: emissions that beat Federal EPA 2007 diesel emissions regulations by 85%, minimal wake wash design, and inclusion of sonar to minimize any possibility of a whale strike. The boats are scheduled for delivery in late 2007 and will carry up to 220 passengers and more than 25 bikes.



**NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR OAKLAND/ALAMEDA
FERRY SERVICE**

At the request of the City of Alameda, the WTA is considering taking over operations of the Alameda/Oakland Ferry Service with routes to Jack London Square, Alameda Main Street and Harbor Bay. The WTA is performing a detailed review of the existing services' operations and finances. It is also developing options for increasing ridership through service changes and aggressive marketing. At its April 28, 2005 Board meeting, the WTA's Board will review the study and consider proceeding with negotiations.

**FERRIES FOR SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO/BRISBANE'S BOOMING
EMPLOYMENT CENTER**

By 2007/2008, the WTA plans to start new ferry service to link San Mateo's Northern shoreline to the East Bay. Later, another leg of the service will include San Francisco. Environmental and terminal design studies are proceeding quickly. The WTA is involving its future customers early on by convening a working group of executives from leading biotech, technology, industrial, and hospitality industries. Over 30 companies were represented at a February lunch hosted by the WTA with city officials. RM2 funds the capital and operating costs for two South San Francisco ferries. San Mateo County voters gave a \$30 million boost to new ferry service from their sales tax that can be used in South San Francisco and/or Redwood City. Reps. Tom Lantos and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi succeeded in getting a \$5 million earmark of Federal funds for the terminal in the House version of the TEA-LU bill.

More...

BRINGING HIGH TECH INFO TO FERRY RIDERS

The WTA will select a contractor to set up a customer-friendly information system communicating up-to-the-minute updates on ferry arrival times. This real time information will be a great benefit for commuters and out-of-town visitors by providing LED display signs, PDA downloads, and web and telephone access. The WTA will work with ferry operators, the Port of San Francisco, and Bay Conservation and Development Commission on this project.

TROLLING IN BERKELEY/ALBANY

The WTA is conducting a field investigation of parking at proposed Berkeley terminal sites; the goal is to have "adequate parking," while enabling the greatest possible use of landside transit connections, biking and walking to the terminal site. The Berkeley Waterfront and Transportation Committees held a joint workshop November 2004 seeking input on issues that will need to be examined by WTA for this service.

FERRIES WILL COMPLEMENT NEW RAIL AND RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Richmond

In April 2005, the WTA will complete a land use study, funded by RM2, to assess how existing and future developments near the shoreline will enhance ferry ridership. The RM2 study will recommend an action plan for delivering sustainable ferry service. City officials, developers, business and community leaders provided extensive input. MTC has selected Richmond to do a case study to test new transit-oriented development criteria that they are considering.

Hercules

The Hercules City Council agreed with the WTA's recommendation to locate the ferry terminal within close proximity to the new Capitol Corridor Rail Station. The Hercules Intermodal station is next to a booming waterfront neighborhood which will house 25,000 dwellings and 7,700 residents. It has convenient access from Highways 80 and 4 that can draw riders from Central Contra Costa County and Pinole/Rodeo. The WTA completed a conceptual design study of the Hercules Ferry Terminal and plans to begin the next phase of planning studies as soon as possible. Contra Costa's new sales tax has allocated \$45 million for West County Ferry Services and an additional \$8 million may be available from development fees.

WTA WORKING HARD TO DOUBLE NATIONAL FUNDING FOR FERRIES

The transportation bill passed by the House of Representatives proposes increasing the Ferry Boat Discretionary Fund from \$38 million to \$75 million per year, with a subsequent \$5 million annual increase per year. California Senator Dianne Feinstein joined Washington Senator Patricia Murray in co-sponsoring legislation to increase funding to \$120 million per year. The WTA led lobbying efforts with other ferry operators, labor and business groups in support of higher levels of funding. The six year transportation bill is expected to be approved by Congress and the President by the end of May.

THE WTA'S CREW

The WTA is pleased to announce the addition of John Sindzinski, Manager, Planning & Development, who brings 25 years of transit experience. Mr. Sindzinski last hails from Community Transit in Everett, Washington, where he built facilities and expanded the bus fleet as the Chief Operations and Development Officer. His Bay Area experience includes Contra Costa County Connection and MTC.

Manager of Marine Engineering, Mary Frances Culnane, has been tapped to serve on the U.S. Coast Guard's National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC), established by Congress to advise the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security on maritime security and policy matters.

WTA'S MISSION: To develop a reliable, convenient, flexible and cost-effective expanded Bay Area water-transit system that will get drivers out of their cars and onto environmentally responsible state-of-the art ferries.