

## SHIP TO SHORE SHOPPING

### TIPS FOR FUN ACTIVITIES BY FERRY

**It's that "shop till you drop" time of year again, so make your shopping experience a "merry" outing - leave your car at home and cruise across the bay on one of your very own ferry systems. Bypass traffic gridlock, parking fees, and bridge tolls and take in the scenery while sipping a beverage on your way to the city...it's so relaxing.**

Ferries arrive at the newly refurbished Ferry Building where you'll discover a hub of activity, good dining and specialty shops. The Embarcadero Center is a short walk across the street where there's a whole variety of unique shops to choose from. You and the kids can take a turn around the ice skating rink at Justin Herman Plaza, too. If you're heading uptown, Union Square is always an exciting shopping experience and just a short ride on MUNI.

Some ferry systems offer free transfers to MUNI and it's so easy to get around. The "F Line" runs up and down the Embarcadero, (Alameda/Oakland Ferry goes directly to Fisherman's Wharf) or walk up to Market St. — most buses go to Union Square.

Check out all ferry schedules at [www.watertransit.org](http://www.watertransit.org) and see if the times fit into some event you plan to attend in the city. Could be a Nutcracker matinee or one of the many tree lighting events...And thinking of lights...there's no experience like leaving San Francisco on a ferry and basking in the twinkling of lights surrounding all four Embarcadero buildings...it's hard not to get in the holidays spirit!

Happy Holidays one and all and a very Happy New Year!



### THE WTA MOVES TO THE WATERFRONT!!

We're joining the ferry boat community on the San Francisco Waterfront!! We'll have space for our Committee meetings AND docking space for our ferry boats!

Look for us in 2007 at:

Pier 9, Suite 111, The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94111

# FULL SPEED *ahead*

## *Happy Holidays!*

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▶ SHIP TO SHORE SHOPPING

▶ WTA IS MOVING IS MOVING CLOSER TO THE WATERFRONT



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## STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BOND

...WHAT'S IN IT FOR FERRIES? *By Steve Castleberry*



These are exciting times for transportation! In November, California voters approved Prop 1B, a \$20 billion infrastructure bond. The Bond provides funding to jump

start a huge backlog of safety and congestion relief projects, including funds for the ferries run by the Golden Gate Bridge District and City of Vallejo. Of particular interest to the WTA are bond funds set aside to increase the capacity of transit operators that can move people in the aftermath of a disaster.

We believe that build out of the WTA's Regional Ferry Plan is one of the best ways to move people in the aftermath of a disaster. Over the next several months, additional legislation needs to be crafted to direct exactly how these funds

should be spent. Of course, the ferry providers will be competing with a number of other transit agencies in both the Bay Area and Southern California for these funds. Determining these priorities, approving the legislation, and selling the bonds will likely take the Legislature until almost the fall of next year.

Meanwhile, WTA will be focusing on identifying our top priorities for emergency response. We'll need to identify the biggest constraints to ferry capacity and how we can best prioritize projects to leverage existing funding for new routes while preserving the WTA's limited operating funds. For example, expanding docking capacity at the San Francisco Ferry building is likely a high priority as there are not enough docks to accommodate all of the existing ferry fleet during an evacuation. WTA is now doing an engineering study that would identify measures needed to rehab piers near the ferry terminal to enable new boats to be docked there.

Build out of our Regional Ferry Plan focuses on development of 8 new ferry routes. Operating funds are available for Berkeley, Hercules, Richmond and Redwood City, so these routes would likely be our first priority for expanded infrastructure to provide the capacity to effectively respond in a disaster.

**"We are interested in the Bond funds that are set aside to increase the capacity of ferries to move people in the aftermath of a disaster."**

Activities over the next few months could have a significant affect on the scope of Bay Area ferry expansion, so stay tuned....

Steve Castleberry is the CEO of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority.

## REAL TIME SIGNAGE BECOMES REALITY

**Running Late? Will you have time to grab a cup of coffee or a newspaper before the ferry takes off?** In July of this year, the WTA unveiled the first real time ferry schedule sign inside the San Francisco Ferry Building. The signage allows passengers to view real time ferry departure times from San Francisco and service disruption notifications.

Through a five year cooperative agreement between the WTA and publicly operated San Francisco ferry boat operators, similar real time ferry schedule signs are now installed at the Harbor Bay, Alameda, Oakland Jack London Square, and Vallejo terminal sites, and are fully operational. The Larkspur sign is expected to be installed in early 2007 and the Sausalito City Council recently approved the permit allowing the signage to be installed in Sausalito. Funding for the project comes from state Regional Measure 2 transportation monies earmarked for ferries.



Via global positioning satellites (GPS) the WTA's vendor for this project (Next Bus, Inc.) can track the location of all publicly operated ferries operating on the bay and then predict departure times.

**Web-based real time ferry schedule information, allowing ferry passengers to go online via a personal computer, PDA or web-enabled cell phone to view real time ferry schedules, is now available at [www.nextbus.com](http://www.nextbus.com) or via a hotlink to Next Bus at [www.watertransit.org](http://www.watertransit.org).**

## PLANNING FOR FERRY SERVICE

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES UNDERWAY IN HERCULES



Michelle St. Pierre of Roma Design, Project Architect, describes Hercules Plans.

**The WTA is proceeding with an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) that is required for the proposed Hercules Multimodal Transit Facility Project.** The proposed project involves the development of a multimodal (ferry, train, bus) transit facility in Hercules. The WTA is the project sponsor and will be the local lead agency for the ferry terminal portion of the project, and the City of Hercules is the project sponsor and will be the local lead agency for the train station and bus terminal portions of the project. The Federal Transit Administration is the federal lead agency for the purposes of the environmental review.

The WTA issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to announce the initiation of the EIR/EA process and to solicit comments from responsible and interested agencies, utilities, interest groups, neighboring property owners, and private individuals concerning the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR/EA.

The public scoping meeting was held in the Hercules City Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 7:30 PM. The WTA and the City of Hercules invited written comments on the scope of the EIR study and the alternatives that should be considered until December 5, 2006.



**Boat Building Contract Negotiations Continue:** The boatyard team of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders and Kvichak Marine Industries requested an eight week extension of contract negotiations to accommodate their schedule for completing the proposed vessel wake wash calculations. Contract execution should follow WTA's review and acceptance of the calculations.

**South San Francisco-Oakland Ferry Service Environmental Clearance Pending:** Certification of the environmental document is expected in December 2006.

**Environmental Study of Berkeley/Albany Terminal Sites Awaiting FTA Approval:** WTA is awaiting FTA approval of the Notice of Intent for preparation of the environmental document. The first scoping meeting will be held in the first quarter, 2007.

**Planning and Environmental Reviews are Underway for Richmond Ferry Routes:** A revised land-use concept for the Richmond terminal will be presented next month.

**Study of Alternative Terminal Sites Underway in Antioch:** Results of a terminal site alternative study will be presented to the Antioch City Council on December 19.

## NEW BEAT *on the Bay*

### DEMONSTRATION FERRY RIDE BUILDS LOCAL SUPPORT FOR REDWOOD CITY FERRY SERVICE

— On October 7, the Water Transit Advocates for San Mateo County, the Port of Redwood City and WTA, hosted a Ferry Demonstration Ride from the Port of Redwood City to the San Francisco Ferry Terminal. Some 90 people boarded the Harbor Bay's "Bay Breeze" ferry for the cruise to the San Francisco Ferry Terminal, including local elected officials, Port of Redwood City Commissioners and Staff, staff from Congressman Tom Lantos' office, WTA, and the private sector (Abott and Oracle). Special thanks to Captain Rocky Harris and his crew for the exceptional ferry ride and outstanding customer performance!

Pictured above are Jim Bourgart, Deputy Secretary for Transportation and Infrastructure, Diane Howard, Redwood City Council Member and Co-Chair of the Water Transit Advocates for San Mateo County, and Charlene Haught Johnson, President of the WTA Board of Directors.

### WHOSE THE NEW FACE IN THE CITY OF VALLEJO?



**It's Crystal Odum Ford the City of Vallejo's new Transportation Superintendent.** In addition to managing Vallejo Baylink Ferry service, she oversees local and regional bus services, taxi and paratransit services, park and ride facilities, and bus transfer facilities. Originally from New York, Odum Ford lived up and down the east coast before coming west to continue her 24-year career in transportation. Stops along the way have included New York

City, Cobb County, Georgia and a rather well-known Bay Area agency - BART- where she was a Richmond line manager and an Operational Liaison Program Manager for the Dublin-Pleasanton and Pittsburg-Antioch extensions. Mindful of the current financial concerns in Vallejo, she notes, "We're looking at every avenue and opportunity to increase revenues into the transit system without impacting passengers and fares." Of the challenges ahead, Ms. Ford said "This is a great opportunity, a great community, and I'm looking forward to really serving the public and making a difference."