

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY NEWS

Providing New Ferry Service Between
South San Francisco and the East Bay

WETA

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY (SSF) SERVICE PROGRESS.

Work continues to bring ferry service to South San Francisco. Funding and other challenges have moved the anticipated service start date to 2009-2010. This newsletter describes major activities underway that continue to move the project forward.

This is the third in a series of newsletters designed to keep you up to date on the proposed South San Francisco ferry route. Please let us know what you think by visiting the Water Emergency Transportation Authority website at www.watertransit.org

The Vessels Are Under Construction and On Schedule for Delivery

Construction of WTA's first two boats is well underway with the Nichols Brothers/Kvichak Boat Building team in Washington. Take a look at the link below to a YouTube video of the test launch of the Gemini - our first vessel! What you see is the hull, which successfully floated in early February. The hull is now at Nichols Brothers Boatyard where the house is being attached to the hull and arrangement of navigational equipment in the pilot house is taking place.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeUR5DQFaL8>



Terminal Design Nears Completion With New Amenities

SSF ferry riders will be pleased that the terminal designs are progressing with a passenger focus. As part of the permitting process, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission requested the addition of a viewing terrace adjacent to the ferry terminal. This viewing terrace will be a place for marina visitors and ferry riders to linger and enjoy views of the bay.

Additional Funding Identified... More Needed

With the addition of the viewing terrace, the costs of the SSF terminal construction project have risen to about \$26 million.

While we have identified new federal funding sources, the San Mateo County sales tax revenues we anticipated receiving fell short so a project shortfall remains. This

funding gap would be filled with funding from State Proposition 1B, with the concurrence of our new Board of Directors (see WTA becomes WETA on back). The earliest these funds would be available to us would be in Summer 2008.



Rendering at left shows the planned terminal with viewing terrace at Oyster Point Marina.

Working to Begin SSF Terminal Construction This Summer

This past fall, WTA worked with the City of South San Francisco to develop an approach that allows construction to begin despite a funding shortfall. Pier construction, dredging and demolition work were to begin this Spring with an allocation of \$15 million in Measure A Sales Tax funds. The construction of the remaining portion of the project, the ferry float, was to proceed once additional required funding was procured. However, it now appears that terminal construction can only proceed once all funding is in place. If sales tax and Prop 1B funding is in place, WETA will be ready to advertise and award pier construction, dredging and demolition contracts this Summer.

Next Steps Before advertising the terminal construction packages this Summer, we need to receive the \$15 million sales tax allocation and the Prop 1B funds in addition to a final lease from the San Mateo County Harbor District, and approval of the WETA Board of Directors to advertise the construction contracts. Assuming we advertise and award construction packages this Summer, we expect the new ferry service to begin in late 2009. Unfortunately, if WETA misses construction windows in 2008, service could be delayed to 2010.

Planning Successful Service

Outreach to Riders Efforts to make the ferry service successful continue with outreach to South San Francisco employers through luncheons, noon time seminars, employer newsletters and transit fairs. From meetings like these we know the importance of ferry service to our future riders.

Getting to the Ferry We are working with officials from the Port of Oakland to arrange parking at Jack London Square for our patrons similar to the program the Port has in place with patrons of the Oakland-Alameda ferry service. We have also had preliminary discussions with Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance to design shuttle services between the Oyster Point Marina terminal site and popular work locations in and around the terminal.

These outreach activities and agency discussions will continue over the next several months as construction on the terminal progresses. We are firmly committed to making the entire commute to and from work as seamless and stress free as possible.

Please contact Shirley Douglas, WETA Community Relations Manager at 415-364-3191 or douglas@watertransit.org with any comments or questions.

Effective January 1, 2008, a new State Law - SB 976 - replaced the Water Transit Authority (WTA) with a new agency, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). This bill gave the new agency the responsibility to coordinate ferry's response in the event of a disaster. This responsibility is in addition to the current mission of delivering new ferry services, such as the SSF project.

The new agency will be governed by a new five person Board of Directors, four of which were announced on March 20. Board members include the following appointments by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: Charlene Haught Johnson, Board Chair and former chair of the WTA Board; Anthony Intintoli, Jr., Board Vice-Chair, former WTA Board member and former Mayor of the City of Vallejo; and Gerald Bellows, Logistics Management Officer for the US Marine Administration. The Senate Committee on Rules appointed Beverly Johnson, Mayor of the City of Alameda and former WTA Board member. The final Board member will be appointed by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez but has not yet been named. The first meeting of the new WETA Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, March 31 from 9 AM to 12 noon at the Port of San Francisco, Bayside Conference Room, Pier 1 on the Embarcadero, at the foot of Washington Street in San Francisco. Go to www.watertransit.org for the meeting agenda.

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