

Berkeley Ferry Fact Sheet

WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Answers to your Questions regarding New Ferry Service Between Berkeley and San Francisco

BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS FERRY TERMINAL

On November 17, 2009, WETA staff will present the latest revised site plan for the Berkeley Ferry Terminal to the Berkeley City Council. The City Council will consider formal action to support the locally preferred site ("Berkeley Fishing Pier" at Seawall Drive) for the Berkeley to San Francisco ferry service.

WHAT: The Berkeley City Council will consider to formally support a ferry terminal to be located at Seawall Drive at the Berkeley Marina.

WHERE: Berkeley City Council Chambers; 2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; Berkeley, CA

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Why does Berkeley need ferry service? How many are expected to use the ferry? What type of service would be provided?

- Berkeley ferry service is part of an integrated regional system of ferries supporting waterborne emergency response coordination and will provide another viable transit option to ease I-80 traffic congestion.

- Berkeley ferry service is forecast to carry about 1,700 people a day in two directions on 30 minute peak period ferry rides to San Francisco, one of the highest ridership projections of the new proposed Bay Area ferry routes (2025 projection).

- Weekday ferry service between the Berkeley Marina and the San Francisco Ferry terminal will provide a stress free, environmentally friendly transit option for commuters and for students, shoppers, outdoor enthusiasts and sightseers.

Why does the San Francisco Bay Area need expanded ferry services?

- Expanded ferry service responds to a regional demand for more transbay transit options; growth projections show a 1.4 million population increase over the next 20 years and a 40% increase in transbay travel.* Water transit that is convenient and reliable will pull commuters and recreation

seekers out of their cars and onto environmentally responsible state of the art passenger ferries.

Where will the Berkeley ferry terminal be located?

- The Berkeley ferry terminal would be located near the landside end of the Berkeley fishing pier and Hs Lordship's Restaurant.
- The Terminal will be a welcoming gateway to the Berkeley waterfront, enhancing shoreline access for both passengers and non-passengers.

Is a ferry needed in light of BART, bus and other transportation modes?

- Significant investments into BART have created a premier regional rail system, but the natural advantages of optimizing the use of the bay for transit have not been fully appreciated. A more robust water-transit system on San Francisco Bay provides another smart transit investment.

- A top priority for WETA is to forge a strong partnership with AC Transit for seamless connections to the ferry terminal.

- The ferry provides room for over 30 bicycles, maximizing opportunities for bicycle access to the ferry terminal.



*Final Implementation and Operations Plan, WETA, July 2003

More Questions and Answers About The Berkeley Ferry

How much will the Berkeley ferry cost? Who will pay?

- The total estimated \$57 million project costs include \$34 million for terminal construction and \$23 million for two 199 passenger vessels, none of which is funded by the City of Berkeley.
- Funding sources includes Regional Measure 2 Toll Bridge funds, federal funds, and State infrastructure bond funds and are specified for waterborne transit services only. They can not be used for other Bay Area transit services like BART or AC Transit.
- Historically, existing Bay Area water transit service has compared favorably with other transit modes, considering key measures of cost effectiveness, such as farebox recovery and operating cost per passenger*. In accordance with MTC requirements, WETA is obligated to operate cost effective water transit service.
- Construction and operation will result in at least 170 construction related jobs and 20+ new full time maritime operations and supervisory jobs.

What about parking and traffic associated with the ferry terminal?

- The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (DEIR/S) identified the need for 400 parking spaces for ferry riders
- Hs. Lordship's parking lot is currently configured for 316 vehicles.
- WETA's proposed parking plan reconfigures the existing parking lot and allows for valet parking during high use periods where there is a mid day event at Hs. Lordships requiring supplemental parking.
- Public parking along the shoreline accommodates 93 vehicles, all of which will be retained if the terminal is built.
- Consistent with current parking policies at existing ferry terminals, WETA anticipates providing free ferry parking to ferry passengers.
- The proposed design provides convenient connections to the Bay Trail and allows direct biking and walking connections. WETA is committed to work with the City to study traffic and pedestrian impacts and potential remedies.

What are the public benefits of the proposal?

- The ferry terminal represents an investment of over \$50 million in the Berkeley Marina. Public benefits include improvements to the Bay Trail.

How will current recreational users at the Berkeley Marina be impacted?

- The proposed ferry terminal is a compatible waterfront use and is expected to bring more people to this site for transportation and recreational purposes. It will not impact the use of the Berkeley Marina for recreational users, including windsurfers.
- The proposed parking lot layout does not change the usage or quality of the built environment and the proposed new landscaping, Bay Trail improvements, and the terminal will enhance the waterfront experience.

What has been the process for public input?

- DEIR/S was issued October 31, 2008, followed by a two month public comment period and a public hearing in November 2008.
- WETA has continued meetings with the City's Waterfront, Planning and Transportation Commissions, the Mayor and members of the Berkeley City Council to solicit input on the project and respond to concerns.
- Waterfront and Transportation Commissions recently voted to support Berkeley ferry service, with conditions.

What are the next steps?

- The Berkeley City Council is scheduled to consider support for Berkeley ferry service at the November 17 Berkeley City Council meeting.
- The Final EIR/S (FEIR/S) will be completed for public comment in late 2009 and will be available for a 30 day public comment period
- Once the FEIR/S is approved the design of the ferry terminal will begin.
- WETA continues its commitment to solicit input from Berkeley elected officials, commissioners and public throughout the design process to minimize impacts of the Berkeley ferry terminal.
- The start of Berkeley ferry service depends on timely completion of design and approval of permits and on WETA's ability to obtain additional funding needed for terminal and vessel construction.

**Final Implementation and Operations Plan, WTA, July 2003*

WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WETA is a regional agency with responsibility to develop and operate an environmentally responsible regional ferry system that connects communities, reduces congestion, and provides an emergency response capability. Please visit www.watertransit.org for more information or contact Leamon Abrams, WETA Community Relations Manager, at 415-364-3191 or abrams@watertransit.org with questions.