

WETA LOCKS IN MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR FERRY SERVICE

The new year brought some early and good funding news. The recently passed appropriations bill for FY 2007 – 2008 included \$1.2 million for ferry boat and terminal construction for WETA projects. The funds are planned for ferry service in South San Francisco (\$574,900) and in Berkeley/Albany (\$643,400).

Congresswoman Barbara Lee announced the receipt of funds for Berkeley/Albany ferry service and other funds for her District at a recent press conference in Berkeley. WETA Executive Director Steve Castleberry thanked Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her strong support of ferry service as a way to increase regional mobility in her district.



CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE WITH BERKELEY MAYOR TOM BATES

FULL SPEED *ahead*

▶ GETTING STARTED... FERRIES AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

▶ A NEW FACE FOR WETA — CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

▶ PROGRESS REPORT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

▶ NEXTBUS SIGNS HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

▶ WETA LOCKS IN MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR FERRY SERVICE



San Francisco Bay Area
Water Emergency Transportation Authority
Pier 9, Suite 111, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: 415.291.3377 Fax: 415.291.3388
www.watertransit.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair
Charlene Haught Johnson

Vice Chair
Anthony Intintoli, Jr.

Gerald Bellows

Hon. Beverly Johnson

John O'Rourke

Executive Director
Steve Castleberry

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE WITH EXCITEMENT

WTA TRANSITIONS TO WETA



*A message from
Charlene Haught
Johnson, Chair,
Board of Directors*

**As Chair of the
Board of Directors
of the San Francisco
Bay Area Water**

Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), I am thrilled that water transit is increasingly recognized as a viable, cost effective transit option to increase regional mobility.

Our new challenge is to build upon our WTA successes by strengthening partnerships with existing ferry operators, transit agencies, local communities and other stakeholders to improve our region's emergency response capabilities.

Immediately after a disaster strikes, ferries will be critical to help the bay area get back on

its feet and keep the economy moving. When roads, bridges or BART fail, waterways may be the only safe transportation option.

We have an excellent team in place to meet our expanded challenges – all of our board members have been appointed and include two former WTA Board members: Vice Chair Tony Intintoli, former Mayor of Vallejo, and Director Beverly Johnson, mayor of the City of Alameda. Our newest members are Directors Gerald Bellows and John O' Rourke. Director Bellows is the logistics management officer for the US Maritime Administration. Director O'Rourke is a business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 6. We all have six year terms and much to accomplish.

SB 976, the new state law that established WETA, provides a framework for our work. We have 18 months to prepare an emergency water transportation plan and 12 months to prepare a related transition plan that

consolidates Vallejo and Alameda/Oakland ferry operations into the new organization.

I look forward to continuing our past partnerships and forging new ones so that we can quickly accomplish our emergency response objectives. As you will see in this issue, we are moving forward with our ferry terminal projects as well as initiating early efforts on the emergency water transportation plan as required by SB 976. Every day that passes brings a high risk of a catastrophic Bay Area earthquake or other disaster. Our emergency response plans must be implemented as quickly as possible as if the lives of the Bay Area residents depend on it, because they do.

Immediately after a disaster strikes, ferries will be critical to help the bay area get back on its feet and keep the economy moving.

GETTING STARTED... FERRIES AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Over the next year WETA will be developing the Water Emergency Transportation System Management Plan (the Plan) required by SB 976. The Plan will include developing Emergency Services Contracts with private ferry operators and agreements with Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (the District) to strengthen our coordination efforts. We will also

participate in upcoming training exercises with the District and look at ways to integrate disaster response training into the incident response training already underway with existing operators.

Additional information on ferry emergency response constraints and our early responses are provided below.

CONSTRAINTS

No agreements are in place to expeditiously mobilize private operators.

A document clearly describing response procedures and which vessels can dock at which terminals is incomplete.

Current dock limitations allow use of only 23 of the 42 available Bay Area vessels.

Existing fuel capacity is not adequate to maintain a prolonged emergency response.

RESPONSES

Get Emergency Services Contracts in place to mobilize private operators.

Continue efforts to create a document covering response procedures and interexchangeability of vessels and terminals. Integrate information into existing training programs in coordination with Coast Guard and other ferry operators.

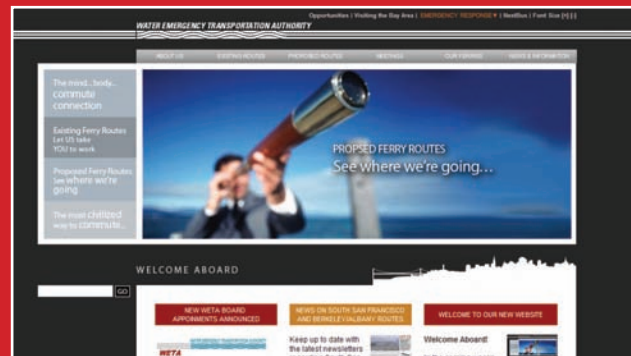
Begin work on additional docking capacity in the East Bay and Ferry Building improvement projects.*

Complete Vallejo's maintenance and fueling facility project and add new fueling capacity at a protected location in the East Bay.*

*Requires funding source

A NEW FACE CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

If you've logged onto our website lately you've likely noticed some big changes. Our new look is easier on the eyes and finding the information you need is only a click away. The address is the same: www.watertransit.org. We'd love to hear your feedback on the new site. Please send any comments or suggestions to houston@watertransit.org.

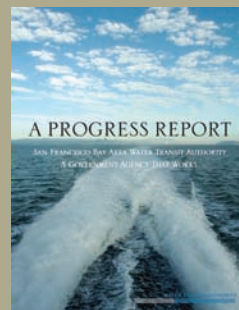


THE WETA WEBSITE WAS BUILT CONCEPT-TO-COMPLETION BY SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNICATIONS FIRM MOLLY DUGGAN ASSOCIATES.

WTA PROGRESS REPORT

WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The WTA's final "Progress Report" publication won a nationally prestigious award on March 15, 2008. The work was awarded a Silver Pollie Award for Best Public Agency Brochure by the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC). The Progress Report focused on the accomplishments of the WTA from its inception to completion. It featured quotes from many prominent Bay Area figures including Senator Feinstein, Senate President Don Perata, and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. The AAPC, a large national trade association based in Washington, D.C., holds annual awards to honor the best political and public affairs work. WTA public affairs consultants BMWL & Partners along with Steve Morrison worked with WTA staff to produce the Report.



NEXTBUS SIGNS-

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

If you are a regular ferry rider, you've noticed some additional signage at your ferry terminal.

Through a five year cooperative agreement between the WETA and publicly operated San Francisco Ferry boat operators, real time ferry schedule signs are installed at all the local ferry terminals and at the Golden Gate ferry, Vallejo Baylink ferry, and Alameda Oakland/Harbor Bay gates at the San Francisco Ferry Building.

But that's just the beginning. The real fun starts when you access real time ferry information on your PC and PDA before you even arrive at the ferry terminal.

With your wireless phone or handheld internet device, you have real arrival information at your fingertips. NextBus wireless service is available anywhere your device has coverage.

Internet-Enabled Phones

Internet-enabled phones allow you to browse the web using your wireless phone. Not all cell phones have this capability. Your phone must use the WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) or HDML protocol. You must also have the web browsing service enabled by your service provider. Some service plans don't let you specify new web sites, only allowing you to browse from a predefined set. If you have any questions, contact your service provider.



Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)

NextBus offers a compact version of the website, optimized for small screen and wireless devices such as Blackberries, Treo, and iPhones and other internet enabled devices. Your device must support two-way wireless service, and have web-browsing software. You'll get the same content as the regular NextBus website, but using a portable device.

ACCESSING NEXTBUS INFORMATION USING YOUR PDA

- 1 Simply point your browser on your PDA to www.nextbus.com and the NextBus system will detect that you are using a PDA and will direct you to the appropriate web pages. If you are not automatically redirected to the special PDA site then go to www.nextbus.com/mini.html. You can also use this streamlined site on any regular computer.
- 2 Select your transit agency, route, and stop for which you would like a prediction. The most current information prediction for the arrival time of the next vehicle will be displayed.
- 3 We recommend that you "bookmark" your stop page for quick access in the future. Consult your user manual for more information on how to use bookmarks.

For more information go to www.nextbus.com



UPDATE

South San Francisco: 100% design and construction estimates for the landside improvements were completed in April. Bid packages are nearing completion for the pier construction, dredging, and demolition contracts. However, construction has been delayed pending lease approval from the California Boating and Waterways, allocation of Measure A funds and additional funding from Proposition 1B to close the funding gap for the terminal construction. South San Francisco ferry service has been rescheduled to begin service in the 2009/2010 time frame.

Berkeley/Albany: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) continued its review of the Draft EIR/S. Once the FTA's comments are incorporated, the document will be issued for public comment for 30 - 45 days and at least two public hearings will be scheduled in early Summer 2008.

Hercules: The Draft EIR/S is nearing completion and should be released for public comment in Spring 2008.

Redwood City, Antioch, Martinez, Richmond: Environmental documents for these proposed ferry routes are delayed until new funding is secured.

Prop 1B Funding: WETA is eligible to receive \$25 million in Prop 1B funding for Fiscal year 2007/2008. These funds will be allocated through the Office of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Services. WETA will submit project funding requests in May and funding allocations are anticipated in Summer 2008.