

About WETA

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) is a regional public transit agency tasked with operating and expanding ferry service on the San Francisco Bay, and is responsible for coordinating the water transit response to regional emergencies.

Present

Today, WETA operates daily passenger ferry service to the cities of Alameda, Oakland, San Francisco, Vallejo, Richmond, and South San Francisco, carrying roughly 3 million passengers per year under the San Francisco Bay Ferry brand. Since 2012, San Francisco Bay Ferry ridership has doubled.

By the Numbers

-  About 3 million passengers use SF Bay Ferry every year.
-  94% of passengers rate service as excellent or good.
-  Ferry ridership has doubled since 2012.
-  8 new boats with 3,235 total seats added to fleet from 2017 to 2020.

Traveling by ferry has become increasingly more popular in the Bay Area, as the economy continues to improve and the population grows. To expand capacity and meet the increased demand for ferry service, WETA has made major investments in fleet expansion and new infrastructure. Between 2017 and 2020, eight new ferries with a combined 3,235 seats will have been added to the San Francisco Bay Ferry fleet. This injection of capacity allows WETA to grow service on existing routes and offer new service to new destinations. To help maintain and operate these ferries, WETA built the North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility on Mare Island in 2016 and the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility in Alameda in 2018. Both sites vastly improved operational efficiency and WETA's

emergency response capabilities. Both facilities have the capability to service as Emergency Operations Centers (EOC).

Future

WETA is planning for a system that seamlessly connects cities in the greater Bay Area with San Francisco, using fast, environmentally responsible vessels, with wait times of 15 minutes or less during peak commute hours. WETA's 2035 vision would expand service throughout the Bay Area, operating 12 services at 16 terminals with a fleet of 44 vessels.

A major expansion of ferry docking facilities in downtown San Francisco in 2020 is an enormous step toward that vision by building new capacity at the terminal most passengers use on a daily basis. In 2019, WETA launched service between the new Richmond Ferry Terminal and San Francisco. Near-term potential new routes include Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point, Treasure Island and the Mission Bay neighborhood of San Francisco. Feasibility studies are underway in Berkeley and Redwood City.

A Plan for Expanded Bay Area Ferry Service



Early 1930s	Mid 1930s	1999	2007	Today
Fleet of 50 ferries shuttled approximately 50-60 million passengers across the Bay each year.	Construction of bridges kills ferry service.	California State Legislature establishes Water Transit Authority (WTA) to restore ferry service on the Bay.	Bay Area Council sponsors legislation that establishes Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) to build a robust regional ferry service and provide emergency response capability.	Demand for ferries soars amidst regional gridlock.
				