

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 5, 2015**

**CONTACT**

Ernest Sanchez  
[sanchez@watertransit.org](mailto:sanchez@watertransit.org)  
510.289.2530

MacKenzie Communications  
[jeff@mackenziesf.com](mailto:jeff@mackenziesf.com)  
p. 415.403.0800  
c. 202 378 8993

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **LONG-AWAITED FERRY SERVICE TO RICHMOND ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY**

#### **Service Planned to Start in 2018**

- WHO:** Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), City of Richmond
- WHAT:** At its March 5, 2015 Board meeting, the WETA Board of Directors approved a Cooperative Agreement with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and the City of Richmond to provide operating subsidy for proposed Richmond ferry service. The 10-year agreement will serve as the basis of future planning efforts among the involved agencies to support and plan for Richmond ferry service. WETA will now begin the process of securing funding for the purchase of two catamaran ferry vessels and construction of a Richmond ferry terminal, at a cost of approximately \$40-45 million.
- WHERE:** WETA will build the Richmond ferry terminal at Ford Peninsula in Richmond.
- WHEN:** Richmond ferry service should be fully operational in 2018.
- WHY:** Richmond was selected for ferry service among other East Bay cities based on ridership projections and operating costs.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- This ferry subsidy funding agreement is the result of cooperation among the City of Richmond, WETA, and CCTA, and reflects CCTA's commitment to offer a variety of transportation services to Contra Costa's citizens.
- Approval of the Cooperative Agreement with CCTA provides operational subsidy for the Richmond Ferry service for a minimum service period of 10 years. It is estimated that a total of \$37.1 million in Measure J funds will be needed to support the Richmond Ferry service during this period.

- The initial level of service will offer three trips to San Francisco in the morning peak period (6AM-9AM), along with two reverse commute trips back to Richmond. In the evening peak period (3PM-7PM), there will be four trips from San Francisco to Richmond, with three reverse commute trips back to San Francisco.

**Quotes:** “The vote today represents a significant milestone in bringing ferry service to Richmond,” said WETA Executive Director Nina Rannels. “This agreement, which was developed in partnership with the City of Richmond and CCTA, will allow us to move forward to secure capital funds, complete final design of the terminal, and begin construction of the service vessels.”

“Richmond and CCTA have been working with WETA to implement sustainable ferry service since the Loma Prieta earthquake,” said Richmond Mayor and CCTA Board Member Tom Butt, who has made bringing ferry service to Richmond a priority issue. “The opening of the UC Global Campus in Richmond, the vibrant population growth in the West County and the continuing congestion on I-80, makes it clear that increased ferry service is an important part of our transit mix. Thanks to our partners at WCCTAC (West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee), CCTA (Contra Costa Transportation Authority), BATA, the City of Hercules and WETA, we now have funding, an approved terminal plan and an operating plan. As soon as WETA can procure two boats and build the terminal facilities, we are off and boating!”

**Media inquiries please contact:**

Ernest Sanchez, [sanchez@watertransit.org](mailto:sanchez@watertransit.org), 510.289.2530

MacKenzie Communications, [jeff@mackenziesf.com](mailto:jeff@mackenziesf.com), p. 415.403.0800, c. 202.378.8993

###

**ABOUT WETA**

WETA was established by the state legislature to operate an integrated regional ferry service, expand ferry service on the bay, and coordinate the water transit response to a regional emergency. Under the San Francisco Bay Ferry brand, WETA operates daily passenger ferry service to the cities of Alameda, Oakland, San Francisco, Vallejo, and South San Francisco.

**ABOUT CCTA**

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is a public agency formed by Contra Costa voters in 1988 to manage the county's transportation sales tax program and oversee countywide transportation planning efforts. CCTA is responsible for planning, funding and delivering critical transportation infrastructure projects and programs that connect our communities, foster a strong economy, increase sustainability, and safely and efficiently get people where they need to go. More information about CCTA can be found online at [ccta.net](http://ccta.net).