

May 8, 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY

WETA Awarded \$5 Million FTA Grant for Ferry Vessel Refurbishment

WHO: Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA)

WHAT: The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) has awarded WETA a \$5 million 2017 Passenger Ferry Grant Program grant for the mid-life refurbishment of the M.V. Solano, a high-speed passenger vessel operating on WETA's Vallejo/San Francisco route. The competitively awarded grant provides essential funding for this \$13 million project that will enhance WETA's regional ferry system and its ability to provide waterborne emergency response in the event of a regional emergency.

WHEN: May 8, 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The M.V. Solano, one of four passenger-only vessels that serve the City of Vallejo, entered service in 2004 and is due in 2019 for a mid-life refurbishment. The construction phase of the 12-month refurbishment is expected to begin in July 2019 with the vessel returning to service in June 2020. Vessel refurbishment includes improvements to the passenger cabins, exterior updating, and upgrades to propulsion and support systems. The main engines and electrical generators will be replaced with cleaner Tier 4 engines that will comply with both EPA and CARB requirements. The new Tier 4 engines will reduce overall vessel emissions by 90 percent. In addition, M.V. Solano passenger capacity will be increased from 320 to 445, a 40 percent increase.

CONTACT:

Ernest Sanchez, sanchez@watertransit.org, 510.289.2530

MacKenzie Communications, jen@mackenziesf.com, p. 415.403.0800, c. 650.296.0626

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About San Francisco Bay Ferry

San Francisco Bay Ferry is a service of the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). SF Bay Ferry serves the San Francisco Ferry Building and Pier 41/Fisherman's Wharf, South San Francisco, Alameda Main Street, Harbor Bay, Oakland Jack London Square and Vallejo, along with seasonal service to AT&T Park.