

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members

**FROM: Seamus Murphy, Executive Director
Kevin Connolly, Planning & Development Manager
Michael Gougherty, Principal Planner**

SUBJECT: Berkeley Pier/Ferry Study and Ferry Service Business Plan Update

Recommendation

There is no recommendation associated with this informational item.

Background

In 2016, WETA adopted its Strategic Plan that included Berkeley Ferry Service in its 20-year vision of potential expansion projects. In 2017, the project was also endorsed by the multi-agency Core Capacity Transit Study led by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as a key medium term regional project for enhancing transit capacity in the Bay Bridge corridor. In 2021, the final Plan Bay Area 2050 approved by MTC included Berkeley Ferry Service as part of its financially-constrained long-range Regional Transportation Plan.

In 2019, WETA and the City of Berkeley executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to undertake a Pier/Ferry Study to consider the feasibility of a joint development project to build a dual-use ferry terminal and public access pier. Work on this effort is planned for completion in December, with formal presentations subsequently planned for the Berkeley City Council and WETA Board. To date, staff has participated in the following outreach efforts to solicit community input on the Pier/Ferry Study:

- In January 2021, the project team hosted four focus groups and Community Workshop #1 to present initial information about the project, including design examples; and listen to community feedback.
- Preliminary project information was presented on February 16 at a Berkeley City Council Workshop and on March 4 at a WETA Board meeting.
- On May 12, the project team presented an update of the project to the City of Berkeley Parks and Waterfront Commission.
- On August 10, revised design alternatives were presented at Community Workshop #2 for further discussion and feedback.
- On October 27, the project team presented a draft preferred alternative design at Community Meeting #3.

WETA staff is also independently preparing a Berkeley Ferry Service Business Plan that will characterize and analyze operational components of the project, including ridership, service plan, terminal access, operating revenues and costs, equity, and economic development opportunities. A similar document is being prepared for WETA's Redwood City Ferry Terminal project. The development of project-specific business plans is essential for WETA's ability to ultimately assess whether a proposed project is consistent with current strategic plan and

system expansion policies and will be important to consider when potentially developing new plans and policies as part of the on-going WETA Service Vision & Business Plan process.

The final Berkeley Ferry Service Business Plan will be presented alongside findings from the Pier/Ferry Study at a subsequent WETA Board meeting. A staff presentation at this month's Board meeting will provide a further summary of work efforts on both the Pier/Ferry Study and Berkeley Ferry Service Business Plan.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational item.

END