



Presentations for Sept. 11, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting



## Item 5a: Pilot Service Program Update

# Pilot Service Program Update

September 2025



*San Francisco Bay Ferry*

## PILOT SERVICE PROGRAM BOARD GOALS – FY 2026

- Through the Pilots Committee, present options to the Board for the operation of energy demand reducing, full-foil vessel technology, including:
  - High-capacity vessel operation on the Vallejo route
  - Small vessel operation of a new service connecting Martinez to the larger SF Bay Ferry network

## KEY ROLES OF PILOT SERVICE COMMITTEE (Directors Dew and Henneberry)

- Prioritize the types of projects and partnerships that WETA should pursue
- Direct staff efforts through confirmation of proposed work program
- Review statement of goals and objectives prior to pilot service launch
- Review draft assessment upon pilot service completion
- Ensure projects provide opportunity for crews to gain training and operating experience
- Provide recommendations to the full WETA Board, as necessary



# PILOT SERVICE PROGRAM BUDGET

Expenditure	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Pilots	Actual	\$2,500,000	\$2,575,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,725,000

- Established through FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Regional Measure 3 Operating Plan
- Authorized for use through Board action
- Funds provided to leverage additional investment from potential public and private partners

# Pilot Project Implementation

FY 2025 & FY 2026

# OAKLAND ALAMEDA WATER SHUTTLE

## ➤ Key Goals

- Assess rider demand and estimate costs for long-term permanent service
- Optimize operations by iterating service plan

## ➤ Vessel

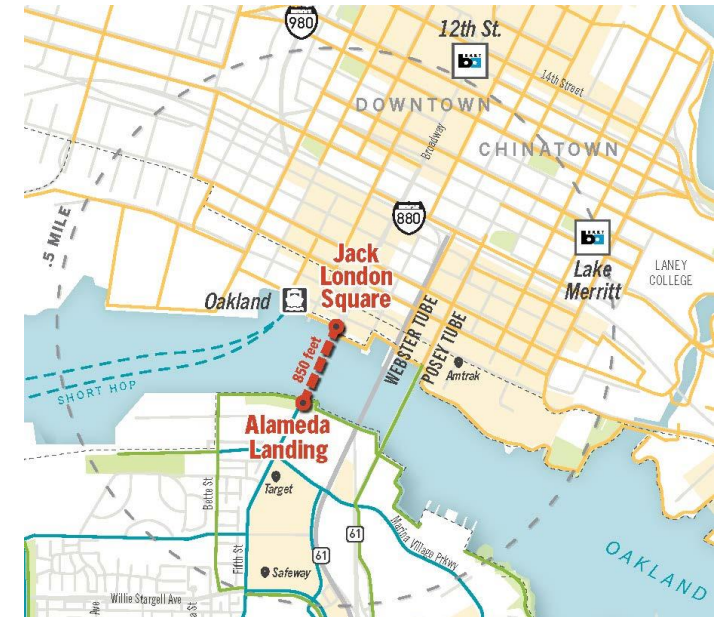
- Woodstock vessel was purchased by project partner
- SF Bay Ferry staff delivered vessel modifications to support service

## ➤ Service Description

- Operated by SF Bay Ferry through Blue & Gold Fleet
- Service 6 days/week, 9-12 hour/day, depending on season
- Duration: July 2024 – May 2026 (pending funding availability)

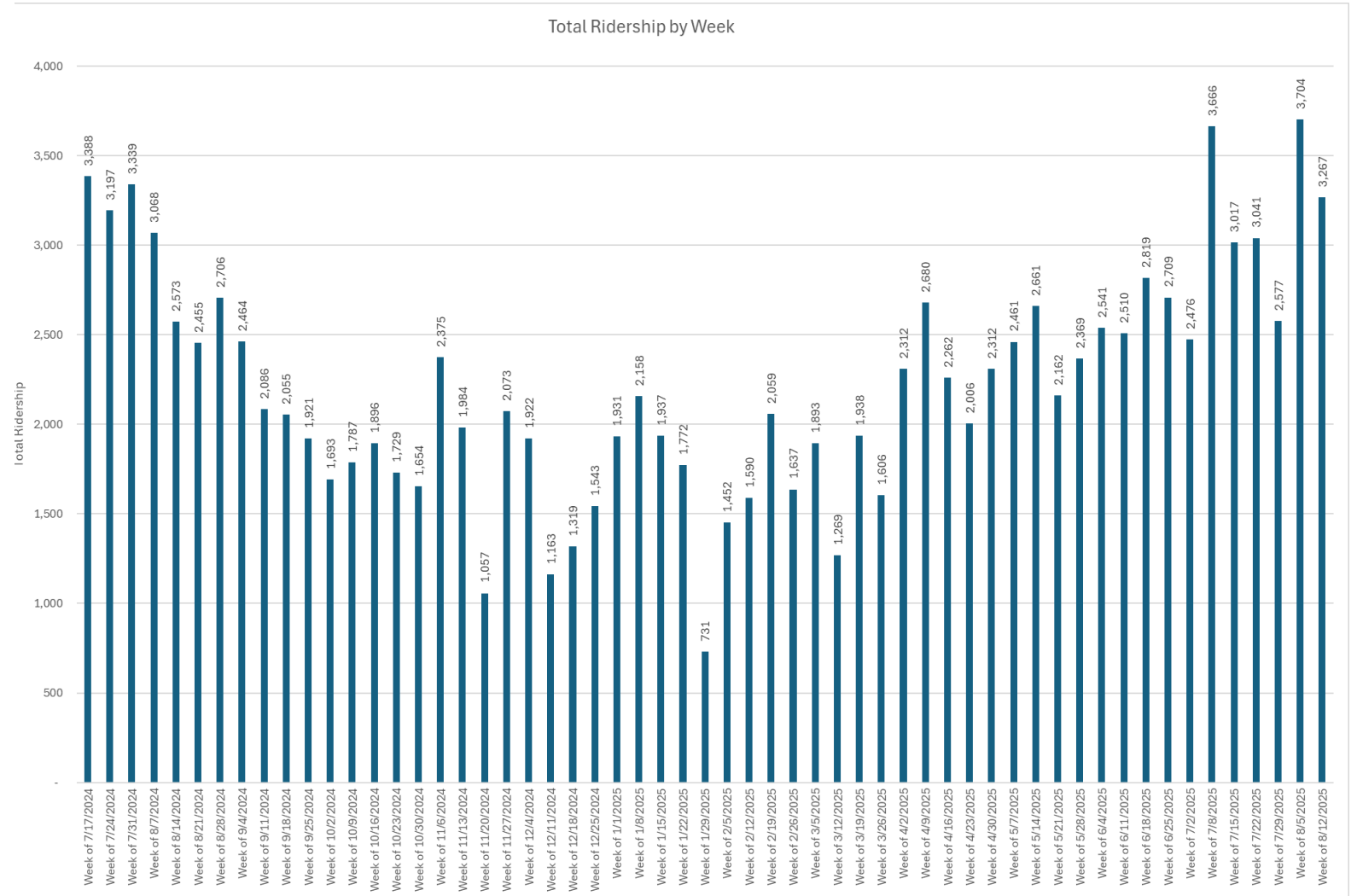
## ➤ Funding/Cost

- Estimated cost: \$1.5 - \$2 million annually
- Multiple partners provide public and private funding - City of Alameda, Alameda TMA, Jack London Square (CIM)
- SF Bay Ferry staff time provided on in-kind basis, no direct funding



# OAKLAND ALAMEDA WATER SHUTTLE

- First Year Performance -
  - Schedule enhanced in November
  - Strong ridership
  - Reliable service
  - Well-received by riders and community
- ACTC considering additional funding as mitigation for Oakland Alameda Access Project (Posey/Webster Tube closure)
- Study underway for permanent project scope



# SEA CHANGE HYDROGEN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- Six month pilot completed in January 2025
- Switch has extended lease agreement with Blue & Gold Fleet for Sea Change vessel to maintain certification
- SF Bay Ferry supporting Switch efforts to identify new funding opportunities for further demonstration of Sea Change vessel
- Final Evaluation Report will be presented to Board in September following review by Pilot Service Committee



# RICHMOND WEEKEND SERVICE ENHANCEMENT

## ➤ Key Goals

- Boost underperforming weekend ridership
- Assess long-term weekend ridership demand
- Improve financial performance

## ➤ Service Plan

- Adds two roundtrips to weekend schedule during high-demand travel times
- Includes later return time from SF
- Minimize new costs by redeploying crews from Pier 41 Short Hop weekend service to Richmond
- Plan to operate for seven-month trial period

## ➤ Marketing and Promotion

- SF Bay Ferry to partner with CCTA to market and promote enhanced weekend service
- Leverage Richmond Ballpark Pilot

CURRENT		NEW	
Westbound		Westbound	
Depart Richmond	Arrive Downtown S.F.	Depart Richmond	Arrive Downtown S.F.
9:50 AM	10:25 AM	8:55 AM	9:30 AM
12:00 PM	12:35 PM	10:20 AM	10:55 AM
5:15 PM	5:50 PM	12:25 PM	1:00 PM
6:45 PM	7:20 PM	4:15 PM	4:50 PM
8:55 PM	9:30 PM	6:40 PM	7:15 PM
		8:05 PM	8:40 PM
		9:30 PM	10:05 PM

CURRENT		NEW	
Eastbound		Eastbound	
Depart Downtown S.F.	Arrive Richmond	Depart Downtown S.F.	Arrive Richmond
11:15 AM	11:50 AM	9:35 AM	10:10 AM
2:05 PM	2:40 PM	11:45 AM	12:20 PM
4:30 PM	5:05 PM	1:05 PM	1:40 PM
6:00 PM	6:35 PM	3:30 PM	4:05 PM
8:10 PM	8:45 PM	5:00 PM	5:35 PM
		7:20 PM	7:55 PM
		8:50 PM	9:25 PM

# TNC FIRST/LAST MILE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- Partnership between SF Bay Ferry, MTC, and the Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) to provide \$100,000 in transportation assistance via Uber vouchers
- Program launched March 2025
- Vouchers sent to over 100 trainees across 3 different cohorts
- 100% subsidy (including driver tips) for first/last mile trips between training sites in Mare Island and Alameda and nearby regional transit



# Pilot Project Development

**FY 2026+**

## FUTURE PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

### ➤ **Vallejo Battery Electric Full-foil Vessel**

- Modelling suggest strong potential for zero-emission service that increases frequency and cost effectiveness
- Working with vessel designers/builders to create a path for US-built vessels and limited SF Bay Ferry risk

### ➤ **Martinez Ferry Pilot Service**

- Develop concept for limited-term pilot service between Martinez Marina and Richmond Ferry Terminal to test new service operating models



Item 9: RFQ 25-003 Treasure Island Electrification Materials Procurement

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September 2025



***San Francisco Bay Ferry***





## Item 10: Sea Change Hydrogen Ferry Demonstration Project Evaluation Report

# Item 10 – Sea Change Hydrogen Ferry Demonstration Project Evaluation Report

September 11, 2025



***San Francisco Bay Ferry***

# SEA CHANGE HYDROGEN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

## Planning:

- Proposal/brainstorm
- Funding plan
- Agreement/MOU
- Statement of goals, objectives, basis of evaluation
- Permits/approvals

## Implementation:

- Data collection
- Project performance monitoring and reporting
- Project adjustments as needed
- Project management and administration

## Evaluation:

- Data analysis
- Key findings and lessons learned
- Project long-term feasibility
- Future work

- Board Pilot subcommittee reviewed the goals, objectives, and basis for evaluation established in advance of the demonstration project launch in 2024.
- Six month pilot completed in January 2025.
- SFBF staff developed the evaluation report—drawing upon quantitative and qualitative data collected during the demonstration project.

# SEA CHANGE HYDROGEN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- Switch has extended lease agreement with Blue & Gold Fleet for Sea Change vessel to maintain certification
- SF Bay Ferry supporting Switch efforts to identify new funding opportunities for further demonstration of Sea Change vessel
- Final Evaluation Report reviewed by Pilot Service Committee, findings include:
  - Major success in obtaining first of its kind COI from USCG
  - No safety incidents during pilot, crews gained valuable training and operating experience with new propulsion technology
  - Local hydrogen fueling and delivery market needs more development
  - Vessel will need to be faster and more reliable to enter regular SF Bay Ferry Service
  - Public Private Partnership model had many upsides
  - SF Bay Ferry will continue to assess technology and consider future demonstration projects

