

BERKELEY PIER & FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT



Project: Restoration of the City of Berkeley's Public Pier & Ferry Terminal Project

Project Lead: City of Berkeley

Project location: Berkeley Marina

Pier & Ferry Terminal Cost: \$79M

Current Funding: \$11M

Project Description:

As part of the City of Berkeley's effort to reopen the Berkeley Municipal Pier, SF Bay Ferry is partnering with the city to establish a ferry terminal on the restored public pier. The proposed project will reconstruct the Berkeley Municipal Pier and develop an integrated, dual-purpose ferry terminal, establishing a critical expansion of the San Francisco Bay Ferry system. The Berkeley-San Francisco ferry route is projected to serve over 1,000 average weekday passengers. The proposed project will construct and establish the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry facility, which consists of a 1,080-foot dual-purpose pier, a 400-foot breakwater, ADA-compliant gangways, and zero-emission vessel charging infrastructure. Following the indefinite closure of the original Berkeley Municipal Pier in 2015 due to severe structural degradation, the waterfront requires comprehensive redevelopment to restore public recreational access and establish modern transit infrastructure. This project will significantly enhance the region's emergency response capabilities ensuring continued transit operations during major earthquakes, regional fires, or other emergencies that disable surface transportation. The City of Berkeley is leading the project, is managing all landside components of the project, and is collaborating with the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) on the detailed design, environmental analysis, and permitting phases of the project.

Benefits:

- The project replaces the degraded Berkeley Pier with a new, seismically resilient facility to restore public waterfront access.
- The terminal integrates Berkeley into maritime transit network that connects local communities to San Francisco's employment opportunities.
- The project constructs a dual-purpose pier that maintains full public access for fishing and waterfront recreation
- The facility reduces congestion on



Interstate 80 and the Bay Bridge while expanding non-motorized access by connecting directly to the San Francisco Bay Trail.

- The project relocates and expands the bus stop and adds dedicated passenger loading zones to make switching between vehicles and the ferry easier.
- A new community plaza will feature benches, public restrooms, and secure bike lockers to support both recreation and commuters.
- Upgrades to the seawall parking lot include better lighting, clearer crosswalks, electric vehicle charging, and permeable paving for improved safety and environmental impact.
- The pier establishes critical emergency infrastructure to ensure reliable water transit across the bay when major disasters disable surface transportation.



Project Milestones & Status:

The City of Berkeley published the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on February 27, 2026. The comment period for the DEIR closed on April 28, 2026. The City is currently responding to and updating the DEIR based on comments received and is collaborating with WETA on the detailed design, environmental analysis, and permitting for the project.

Funding:

The project has secured approximately \$11 million to execute the design and environmental review phases:

- \$5.1 million from the Alameda County Transportation Commission in May 2023
- \$2.9 million from the California State Coastal Conservancy in June 2023
- \$3.0 million from San Francisco Bay Ferry in May 2024

Estimated Cost:

The project is estimated to cost a total of \$104 million, including \$79 million for construction of the pier and ferry terminal and \$25 million for plaza and landside improvements.

Supporters:

The project is supported by a broad coalition of local, regional, and state partners, including but not limited to the following organizations:

- Bay Area Council
- Bay Planning Coalition
- Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
- Bike East Bay
- International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
- Seamless Bay Area
- Transbay Coalition
- UC Berkeley Associated Students (ASUC)
- Visit Berkeley
- Walk Bike Berkeley
- Waterside Workshops