



*** NEWS ADVISORY ***

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**Quinn's call for a Citywide Ferry System answered
by a loud AMEN! by the Waterfront Alliance**

New York, NY: In her State of the City Address today, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn called for cleaner and more accessible mass transit for NYC residents and visitors. “Speaker Quinn’s call for a citywide ferry system is a far-sighted and bold step to opening up our waterfront to the people and helping relieve stress on our already overtaxed transit systems and roads” said Roland Lewis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. “As *blue avenues* the waterways have tremendous value in at least two ways: one, they are already paid for, provided for us by nature, and so don't require costly construction to dig tunnels, lay tracks or build bridges; two, as transportation resources go, they are the most resilient resources we have - while a blackout, a labor strike and an act of terror have each paralyzed our whole transportation system in the last 6 years, the waterways have continued to flow and in many ways constituted a lifeline for millions of people and businesses impacted by these events. A ferry ride to work should be as affordable as a subway or bus ride, and the ferries should be seamlessly integrated into our mass transit system.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is the city’s premiere voice for the intelligent and equitable development of the waterfront. MWA is an alliance of 323 civic organizations with an interest in improving the region’s waterways. Mr. Lewis added, “We look forward to working with Speaker Quinn on this ambitious project.”

MWA Recommends:

- *Make MetroCard technology the standard fare collection system device on all ferries*
- *Identify funding sources so that low and ultra-low sulfur diesel, and bio-fuel becomes standard for ferries*
- *Develop innovative ferry design that minimizes both damaging wakes as well as noxious air emissions*
- *Connect upland transit buses to every ferry landing*
- *Create access between central business districts and airports via ferry*
- *Develop region-wide master plan for ferries that links boats to landside mass transit including buses, subways and rail*
- *Subsidize ferries to make them competitive with other forms of mass transit*

A well-funded and well-maintained ferry system will enhance our infrastructure, open up our waterfronts – and create jobs for New Yorkers.

About the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

MWA is dedicated to the transformation of the New York and New Jersey harbor and waterways to make them clean and accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work, with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all. MWA has established a Task Force on Mass Water Transit linking water transit to upland mass transit and making it affordable.

www.waterfrontalliance.org – www.waterwire.net/issues/watertransit.cfm