



***** NEWS ADVISORY *****

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Mayor Bloomberg Expands Waterfront Legacy with New Ferry Service

New York, NY: The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, a region-wide coalition of 329 civic organizations, praised the leadership of the Mayor, the Speaker, and the NY Congressional delegation in spearheading the first new mass transit ferry service in modern New York City history.

“This is a giant step toward creating a citywide ferry system,” said Roland Lewis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. “The Mayor is expanding his effort to open up our waterfront to all New Yorkers. Our new “blue highway” will be efficient and green transit for many thousands of New Yorkers. And by setting the water transit fare equal to an express bus fare, this truly will make ferries an affordable option for many people, and at the same time help relieve stress on our over-crowded transit systems and congested roads.”

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is the city’s premiere voice for the intelligent and equitable development of the waterfront. MWA is currently developing an “Action Agenda for the Waterfront,” a comprehensive policy platform to transform the waterfront that will be released later this year. “We praise Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn for working together on this initiative that will free up hundreds of hours of time for everyday New Yorkers who have been stuck in traffic. We look forward to seeing this system expand to other parts of the City, including Staten Island, Roosevelt Island, Riverdale, and other parts of the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan.”

MWA Recommends:

- Subsidizing ferries to make them competitive with other forms of mass transit
- Making MetroCard or Smart Card technology the standard fare collection system device on all ferries
- Ensuring that that cleaner fuels such as low and ultra-low sulfur diesel, and bio-fuel become standard for ferries
- Developing innovative ferry designs that minimize both damaging wakes as well as noxious air emissions
- Creating easy access between central business districts and airports via ferries
- Developing a region-wide master plan for ferries that links boats to landside mass transit including buses, subways and rail

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 works to transform 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