



# Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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*#MWAConference2014*

## Ferry Good Idea: Integrate Ferries Into Public Transit!

Innovative MWA White Paper Proposes 15 Actionable Steps  
Toward Better Connecting Ferries With Upland Communities

*“Ship to Shore” Policy Paper to be Released at the 2014 Waterfront Conference*

**New York, NY** – It’s no secret that ferry service is making a huge comeback in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. Thanks to highly successful new ferry routes, the New York region now boasts the highest ridership of any ferry network in the country and among the highest in the world.

But because they rarely function in coordination with other mass transit, New York’s ferries are not maximizing their potential. Why? Ferries can be expensive. Landings are often hard to reach. Transfers to other modes of transportation are discouraged.

For true success, ferries must be integrated into the larger regional transportation network. How? The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance presents “**Ship to Shore: Integrating New York Harbor Ferries with Upland Communities**,” an innovative policy paper that offers 15 actionable steps toward connecting ferry service better with surrounding communities. What’s more, MWA proposes that the common thread to unite all 15 recommendations and facilitate their implementation is the consolidation of ferry transit operation, subsidy and integration within the jurisdiction of one inter-agency governing authority, such as the MTA or the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

“New Yorkers are once again turning to their waterways for fast, reliable, affordable, and enjoyable transportation,” said Roland Lewis, MWA President and CEO. “However, to serve as truly equitable transportation that is accessible and affordable to all New Yorkers, it is absolutely critical that ferries receive the public subsidy necessary to allow for full fare integration with our subways, buses and trains.”

Among the 15 recommendations for integrating ferries with upland communities are

- Integrate ferry fares with NYC Transit, allowing intermodal transfers with one payment
- Install MetroCard machines at ferry landings
- Provide discounted fares to passengers transferring between ferries and NYC Transit
- Extend bus routes to the waterfront to facilitate more seamless intermodal transfers

“Ferries have become a critical component of New York City’s transportation network,” said Brian McCabe, Chief Operating Officer of New York Water Taxi. “But the success of the ferry industry is contingent upon adequate landside connections, including improved accessibility and affordability through integration with New York City Transit.”

“**Ship to Shore**” will be released at the MWA Waterfront Conference on April 24, 2014, when hundreds of waterfront advocates, government officials, scientists, engineers, environmentalists, journalists and community activists will board the magnificent *Hornblower Infinity* for a day-long series of panel discussions on pressing waterfront issues.

“The future of ferry service in New York Harbor will be greatly enhanced if our public agency partners embrace the forward-looking agenda put forth by the MWA in its “Ship to Shore” report,” said Paul Goodman, CEO of BillyBey Ferry Company, which operates as NY Waterway. “Greater coordination with public mass transit alternatives to connect people with ferry locations would further establish ferries as an integral part of the regional transportation network.”

“Seastreak vessels ferry passengers quickly and efficiently from Monmouth County to Manhattan, the Rockaway's, Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Hoboken, but getting from the dock to their destination can be challenging for many of our riders,” said James A. Barker, President, Seastreak, LLC. “Waterborne transit is a crucial part of the region’s transportation network, and a number of this report’s recommendations could help to provide the coordination necessary to improve those connections.”

The 2014 Waterfront Conference will explore progress on the regional waterfront over the last 12 months with a special focus on the remarkable grassroots, community-based waterfront plans developed before and after Superstorm Sandy. Panelists will also take an early look at the de Blasio Administration’s approach to waterfront policy. Morning panels will take place dockside, followed by afternoon panels and the Heroes of the Harbor awards ceremony as the [Hornblower Infinity](#) cruises around New York Harbor. For details on panel topics, the Heroes of the Harbor and ticket purchases, please visit [www.waterfrontalliance.org/2014\\_Waterfront\\_Conference](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org/2014_Waterfront_Conference).

The annual MWA Waterfront Conference has become the region's premier forum for discussion of waterfront issues, each year attracting 600+ representatives from businesses, community and recreational groups, educational institutions, and environmental organizations. The popularity of the conference is an indication of its wide-ranging impact on forming progressive harbor policies and initiatives.

Media representatives wishing to attend the Waterfront Conference should contact Alison Simko at [asimko@waterfrontalliance.org](mailto:asimko@waterfrontalliance.org). *#MWAConference2014*

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance [www.waterfrontalliance.org](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org) works to protect, transform, and revitalize our Harbor and waterfront.

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