



Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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New York City to Launch Affordable Five-Borough Ferry Network

MWA salutes expansion of waterborne transportation to bring transit equity to underserved New Yorkers for the same fare as a subway or bus trip

New York, NY -- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced today the expansion of New York's ferry transit network to serve all five boroughs by 2017, bringing a new transportation choice to transit-starved communities in Soundview, Bronx; Astoria, Queens; Red Hook, Brooklyn; and restoring discontinued service to Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and the Rockaway peninsula.

Since its inception, the [Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance \(MWA\)](#) has been a champion of creating a five-borough ferry network that is affordable, extensive, reliable and equitable -- advocating for a new transportation choice for residents of waterfront neighborhoods who have long suffered arduous commutes. Most recently, MWA helped organize residents of Soundview and adjacent neighborhoods to create the Bronx Ferry Alliance, a coalition of commuters and local businesses dedicated to bringing waterborne transit to the Bronx.

During his [State of Our City address](#), de Blasio announced that the new citywide ferry system will "give opportunity and connection" to neighborhoods that have long felt isolated. He added that new ferry service would connect waterfront communities to job centers, overturning the idea that "a job in Manhattan could mean an hour or more of commuting, even when the skyline is visible from your home."

"Five-borough ferry service from the Rockaways to Soundview, as affordable as a subway ride, is a dream come true for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers," said Roland Lewis, President & CEO of MWA. Lewis added, "This is an enormous step forward to address inequality, and connect outer-borough communities with economic opportunities. Getting residents of waterfront communities to their jobs quickly, safely, and affordably is rightly an important priority for all New Yorkers."

"As we have reimagined our waterfront over the last generation, expanded ferry service will help New Yorkers better reach new destinations," said Christopher O. Ward, Chair of the MWA Board of Trustees. "The blue highways are the best pathways to bring transportation choice to thousands of New Yorkers right now -- and will provide important system-wide emergency preparedness during times of distress," Ward said. "MWA looks forward to working with the de Blasio administration to ensure that the ferry system is integrated with the surface transit network to serve thousands along multiple routes, including commuters and the growing tourist market."

The City of New York launched the East River Ferry in 2011 as a three-year pilot project to connect Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. In just three years, ridership more than doubled early projections, significantly reducing the cost of public subsidy, and the service was extended to 2019 as a result of that success. The new network will build off the success of the East River Ferry, expanding service outward to reach western Queens, southeast Bronx, southwest Brooklyn, and the Rockaway peninsula, and attract thousands of new daily riders.

The [Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance](#) works to protect, transform, and revitalize our harbor and waterfront. [@MWAlliance](#)

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