



Ferries



Island People Need Ferries in Good Times and Bad



9/11, the Blackout, the Transit Strike and now the destruction wrought by Sandy have taught New Yorkers the same lesson – we enjoy and use ferry transit in good times and need ferries desperately when our trains, roads, and tunnels aren't functioning. An affordable, frequent, comfortable, and robust ferry system that is fully integrated with our buses and trains is a commonsense addition to our transit network.

Building a Robust Ferry System

Facts	Solutions
With 30 million annual passengers, New York City boasts the highest ferry ridership of any city or metropolitan area in the country and the second highest in the world.	Expand ferry service into a robust, 5-borough system that provides quick and efficient transit in good times and serves as a critical lifeline during and following emergency situations.
Ferries provide a critical redundancy to the city's transit network, serving as indispensable assets during and following emergency situations such as the 2003 blackout, 9/11, and Superstorm Sandy.	Given their value in emergency response and recovery, capital dollars for expanded ferry service should be funded by FEMA and HUD emergency preparedness funding.
The popular East River Ferry, launched as a pilot service in June 2011, doubled initial ridership projections, carrying 1.6 million passengers in its first 18 months of operation.	Like all other modes of public transportation in New York City, ferries must receive a dedicated public subsidy in order to keep fares affordable for all New Yorkers.
The per-rider subsidy required to sustain \$4 fares on the East River Ferry is roughly half that of express buses and comparable to that of the Staten Island Ferry.	To better integrate ferries into the city's existing mass transit system, passengers should be able to pay fares with a MetroCard and transfer for free to New York City Transit.
Our ferries are not integrated into the MTA, our region's transit system. Operated by a number of private operators, ferries in New York City do not accept fare payments via MetroCard, nor do they allow free transfers to NYC Transit.	To further improve connectivity between ferries and upland communities, bus routes should be extended to the waterfront, and enhanced pedestrian environments around terminals should be incentivized.



Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance



The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance works to transform the New York and New Jersey Harbor and Waterways to make them cleaner and more accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all. For more information, please visit www.waterfrontalliance.org.

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