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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**MAYOR LONDON BREED, SENATOR SCOTT WIENER,
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAVID CHIU, WATER EMERGENCY
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, AND PORT OF SAN
FRANCISCO OPEN NEW GATES AT DOWNTOWN FERRY
TERMINAL**

Gates are an important component of a \$98 million expansion of ferry capacity in San Francisco to meet increased demand for ferry service, which has doubled since 2012

San Francisco, CA — Mayor London N. Breed, Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember David Chiu, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) and the Port of San Francisco (Port) today announced the opening of the second of two new ferry gates to increase capacity at the Ferry Building. The new gates are part of the downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project, which will double downtown ferry capacity to support increased San Francisco Bay Ferry ridership, which has doubled since 2012.

“Right now it is simply too difficult for many people to commute in and out of San Francisco,” said Mayor Breed. “Our population and our economy are growing. We need to make sure that we continue to invest in our transportation infrastructure to break the gridlock, and this includes expanding our ferry service throughout the Bay Area.”

The new Gate F, south of the iconic Ferry Building in downtown San Francisco, is now open for service, serving San Francisco Bay Ferry passengers riding the Richmond and Harbor Bay routes. The new Gate G opened in December 2018, serving passengers on the transit system's Alameda/Oakland route.

In addition to providing increased ferry transit capacity, WETA is charged with coordinating emergency water transit in the Bay Area. Additional berths in San Francisco greatly improve WETA's ability to evacuate the City and transport first-responders if necessary.

“An efficient and fully-funded transportation system—particularly public transportation—is essential to our states' economy, environment, and residents' quality of life,” said Senator Scott Wiener. “Investments in the downtown San Francisco ferry terminal and services will improve our state's transportation system and improve the quality of life of thousands of Bay Area commuters.”

“Our state must be aggressive in investing in our transportation infrastructure during a time when people are commuting long hours due to our housing crisis,” said Assemblymember David Chiu.



“With a new governor and an extraordinary budget surplus, now is the time to make ongoing investments in transportation and emergency infrastructure.”

The \$98 million project includes funding from State Proposition 1B, Regional Measure 2 toll revenue, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration and San Francisco’s Proposition K transportation sales tax.

“San Francisco Bay Ferry service is growing with new routes and more passengers than ever,” said Nina Rannells, the executive director of WETA. “These new gates in downtown San Francisco increase our capacity and represent a major upgrade to our busiest terminal. This is a huge milestone for this project and for the growth of WETA’s ferry service in the Bay Area.”

“We are welcoming more people by ferry to our waterfront each year and expect that number to increase,” said Elaine Forbes, Executive Director of the Port of San Francisco. “The Port is planning for future growth and making sure all waterfront projects, including the downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project, are built with consideration of the latest sea level rise forecasts and designed to remain functional after a major earthquake, while also making sure our shoreline is enhanced for the thousands of people that enjoy it each day.”

The existing Gate E will be rebuilt over the next year as work continues on a new public plaza at the site. The public plaza will have new amenities such as weather-protected canopies, an extension of pedestrian promenade areas, and other public access improvements. The new gates and amenities will significantly improve waiting and queuing conditions for existing riders and expand the space available for WETA to stage emergency water transit services in the event of a regional transportation disruption or disaster.

WETA began project construction in 2016 and the full project is expected to be completed in early 2020. The Project design team is led by ROMA Design Group. Power Engineering Construction is the general contractor for the project and Jacobs Engineering serves as the construction management firm.

In January, WETA launched new San Francisco Bay Ferry service between Richmond and San Francisco. The Port of San Francisco is leading a citywide effort with WETA and other partners to build a ferry landing in the city’s growing Mission Bay neighborhood.

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