

Berkeley Pier with Ferry Access Project

Type: Other Infrastructure Status: ● Design

PROJECT LOCATION

Berkeley Waterfront

WHAT'S HAPPENING

This is a Measure T1 Phase 1 project.

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project. The EIR Public Review Scoping Period is from April 18, 2025 to May 19, 2025. A copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR is posted below under the “Design & Environmental Phase” documents.

The City has completed the Pier and Ferry Feasibility Study, which evaluated the feasibility of rebuilding the Berkeley Municipal Pier as a dual-purpose pier that provides recreational access and an electric ferry service. The two-year study was funded by the City of Berkeley through Measure T1 and by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). The study included over a year of public process that resulted in a preferred project concept, which was presented to the Berkeley City Council in December 2021 and the WETA Board in April 2022.

The City is collaborating with WETA on the detailed design, environmental analysis, and permitting for the project. In 2023, the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the California State Coastal Conservancy awarded the City grant funding to complete the Design/Environmental phase of the project. WETA has also allocated funds for this phase. This work is underway and is expected to be completed in 2027.

CONSULTANT TEAM

- COWI – Prime Design Consultant, Structural, Coastal
- NCE – Civil Engineer
- CDM Smith – Civil Engineer
- Robin Chiang – Architecture
- ENGEO – Geotechnical
- YEI – Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Engineer
- Aurora – Electrification (waterside)
- Arup – Electrification (landside)
- ETrac – Topographic and Hydrographic Surveys
- Pacific EcoRisk – Sediment Sampling and Dredge Disposal
- Herbert – Naval Architecture
- BK Cooper – Cost Estimating
- Rincon – Prime Environmental Consultant, CEQA, Permitting
- Kittleson – Parking and Transportation
- WRA – Regulatory Permitting, Biological Resources
- Brad McCrea – BCDC Permitting

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The project was initially presented at the City Council Work Session on February 16, 2021, followed by a WETA Board of Directors meeting on March 4, 2021.

The Pier and Ferry Feasibility Study gathered extensive community feedback through four focus groups in early January 2021 and three large community workshops on January 21, August 10, and October 27, 2021. An online questionnaire for the project was conducted from March 22 to June 6, 2021.

The community feedback was used to develop a preferred concept for the project. The preferred concept was presented to the City Council in December 2021 and the WETA Board in April 2022.

Reports, presentation slides, and other documents related to the public engagement process can be found below.

The project is currently in the Design/Environmental phase. The City presented project updates to City Council members, the WETA Board, and to over a dozen local community groups as part of the public engagement process of this phase. The City will also provide a detailed update on parking and transportation demand management to the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission.

Additional public outreach and public meetings will occur throughout the Design/Environmental phase of the project.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Municipal Pier was closed in July 2015 due to structural problems on the underside of the concrete decking and pilings. In 2017, the City retained structural engineering firm GHD to assess the problem and develop a range of potential solutions and cost estimates.

In 2018, WETA staff initiated discussions with City staff about the possibility of a new ferry service at the Berkeley Waterfront. In 2019, WETA and the City Council authorized a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement (MOU) to jointly fund a planning study on the feasibility of rebuilding the Berkeley Pier for ferry service and recreational access. In 2024, the City and WETA amended the MOU to cover the current Design/Environmental phase.

DOCUMENTS

Design & Environmental Phase

AMENDMENT OF THE MOU BETWEEN CITY OF BERKELEY AND WETA

WATER TRANSPORTATION PIER-FERRY PROJECT PARKING AND TDM PLAN, MARCH 2025, FINAL DRAFT

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT & EIR SCOPING MEETING, MAY 2025

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION TO PRW COMMISSION MARCH, 2025

DRAFT WATER TRANSPORTATION PIER-FERRY PROJECT PARKING AND TDM PLAN ADDENDUM

Feasibility Phase (complete)

BERKELEY MUNICIPAL PIER STUDY PROJECT SUMMARY

FERRY TERMINAL FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY - BERKELEY MUNICIPAL PIER

PIER-FERRY COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

PIER-FERRY COUNCIL REPORT - APPROVAL OF WETA AND CITY COUNCIL MOU

PIER-FERRY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT OF THE PREFERRED CONCEPT

PIER-FERRY QUESTIONNAIRE #1 RESULTS SUMMARY, OCTOBER 2021

PIER-FERRY STUDY FAQ

Pier Closure and Background Information

BERKELEY PIER STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT DRAFT

MUNICIPAL PIER RENOVATION ALTERNATIVES

SEA LEVEL RISE ASSESSMENT STUDY

SMALL-SCALE FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Images



PAST EVENTS

Pier-Ferry City Council Worksession December 7, 2021 2 Documents	▼
Pier-Ferry Community Workshop #3 October 27, 2021 2 Documents	▼
Pier-Ferry Community Workshop #2 August 10, 2021 6 Documents	▼
Pier-Ferry City Council Worksession February 16, 2021 1 Documents	▼
Pier-Ferry Community Workshop #1 January 21, 2021 7 Documents	▼
Pier-Ferry Focus Groups January 5, 2021 3 Documents	▼

Funding Source

- ✓ [Marina Fund](#)
- ✓ [Measure T1](#)
- ✓ [Capital Improvement Fund](#)
- ✓ [WETA Grant](#)
- ✓ [Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)
- ✓ [California State Coastal Conservancy SCC Grant](#)

Project Team

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