



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: City Manager **E-SIGN:**
FROM: Director of Public Works and Asset Management
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
DATE: 10/14/2025 **MEETING DATE:** 10/21/2025

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Proposal to Establish a Ferry System in Partnership with WCIND

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This memo introduces a proposal for the development of a ferry system aimed at enhancing transportation options for both residents and visitors traveling to and from the island. The project would include four designated ferry stops at an identified marinas and utilize a specially developed Drop-Off Basin for efficient boarding and disembarkation.

Key Components of the Proposal:

1. Ferry Service Infrastructure:

- Four (4) designated stops strategically located at identifiable marinas starting at Seaboard Ave. and ending at the Venice Area Beautification (VABI) building.
- Construction or adaptation of a Drop-Off Basin, in partnership with West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), to accommodate ferry boarding disembarkation and ensure safety and accessibility.
- Coordination with existing marina infrastructure and operations to minimize impact and optimize flow.

2. Partnership with WCIND:

- Collaboration with WCIND to support project planning, implementation, and funding opportunities.
- WCIND's experience and jurisdiction over regional waterways make them a valuable partner for feasibility studies and regulatory compliance.

3. On-Island Mobility – Golf Cart Shuttle Service:

- A private vendor-operated golf cart shuttle service will provide transportation from the ferry stops to key island destinations.
- This service will reduce congestion, support environmentally friendly mobility, and enhance visitor convenience.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a feasibility study in partnership with WCIND.
 - Identify funding opportunities and potential cost-sharing models.
 - Engage stakeholders including marina operators, local businesses, and residents.
 - Begin preliminary discussions with prospective vendors for golf cart shuttle operations.
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Conclusion:

This ferry system initiative has the potential to reduce vehicle traffic, improve access, and enhance the overall visitor and resident experience. We recommend City Council support the exploration of this concept in collaboration with WCIND and initiate preliminary assessments and request for a formal presentation be placed on a future agenda.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Discussion and then Place on Next/Future Agenda for Formal Action

Yes N/A

☒	☐	Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting)
☐	☒	City Attorney Reviewed/Approval
☐	☒	Risk Management Review
☐	☒	Finance Department Review/Approval
		Funds Availability (account number):

CC: