ASTORIA FERRY STUDY
HALLETTS POINT SITE ANALYSIS

Community Information Session
June 4, 2015
Welcome and Introductions

• NYCEDC Team
  • James Wong – Ports & Transportation
  • Keith Dumanski – Government and Community Relations
  • Lydia Downing – Government and Community Relations
  • Andrew Genn – Ports & Transportation
  • Peter Flynt – Asset Management

• Ferry Study Consulting Team
  • Alan Meyers – Parsons Brinckerhoff
  • Alice Cheng – Cheng Solutions
  • Maki Onodera – CH2M Hill
  • Dan Baer – Parsons Brinckerhoff
Agenda

- Welcome
- Project purpose and background
- Citywide Ferry Plan
- Astoria Landing
  - Technical studies
  - Neighborhood consultation
  - Transportation connections
- Breakout sessions for questions
A history of ferries in Astoria

- **1780’s** – Merchant Ferry Service established
- **1840’s** – Stephen Alling Halsey Father of Astoria acquires Hell Gate Ferry Service
- **1917** - Queensboro Plaza opened and was used by trains between Grand Central and Astoria.
- **1936** - 92nd Street Ferry Depot discontinued after construction of the Triborough Bridge.
- **1951** - NYCHA Astoria Houses Campus Completed
Astoria Ferry Study

• **2010** – Citywide Ferry Study first published.

• **2013** – Update to 2010 Citywide Ferry Study identifies several potential routes and landings including one in Astoria.

• **2014** – HPD’s Astoria Cove project approved by NYC Council includes commitment from City to further study feasibility of a ferry stop in Astoria.

• **2015** – Mayor de Blasio releases Citywide Ferry Plan based on 2013 study including a commitment for ferry service to Halletts Point.
Study Purpose

- Develop concept designs for a ferry landing at Halletts Point, based on:
  - Citywide ferry program
  - Neighborhood context
  - In-water studies
  - Landside transportation access
  - Residential conditions
- Identify implementation plan with City partners:
  - NYC Dept of City Planning
  - NYC Dept of Transportation
  - NYC Housing Authority
  - NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation
Citywide Ferry Plan

- **Staten Island Ferry**
  - NYCDOT operated
  - Free service

- **East River Ferry**:
  - E. 34th, Queens, Brooklyn, Wall St
  - EDC/City funded, privately operated
  - $4 per trip / $6 weekends

- **Planned network**
  - 5 new routes
  - 13 new and upgraded landings
  - System-wide base fare $2.75
  - All routes launching in 2017-18
  - Astoria route launching in 2017!
Transportation and Access – Main Themes

- Ferries fill in gaps between waterfront communities and subways.
  - 1 mile from Astoria Blvd subway
  - Residents near subway are unlikely to walk to ferry

- Ferries serve residents within walking distance.
  - Proposed landing near Astoria Houses and future residential
  - Saves about 15 minutes to Wall Street/Pier 11
Surveys of actual riders in other neighborhoods show that more than 90% of regular ferry riders walk, bike or take transit to ferry landings.

By 2025, there will be about 600 ferry riders a day from Astoria.

In the mornings, fewer than 10 people are expected to drive to the ferry and park.
Site Selection for Ferry Landing

- Halletts Cove location ideal based on:
  - Navigation to landing
  - In-water bathymetric conditions
  - Existing upland esplanade
  - Proximity to residential centers
  - Travel time on ferry route
Landside Access: Clear Pedestrian Routes are Crucial

- **Primary access:**
  - 8th Street (serving points east and Astoria Cove) and Vernon Blvd (serving points east and south)
  - Encourage through signage, design

- **Supporting access:**
  - Astoria Blvd./NYCHA
  - 4th St./NYCHA
  - 1st St./NYCHA

To/from Halletts Point, western peninsula
To/from Astoria Houses, Astoria Cove
To/from points East
**Landside Access: Bike and Transit Access is Good**

- Ferry site near a protected bike path
- Protected bike path runs from the south along Vernon Blvd.
- Bike lanes support most of peninsula
- Connection to protected bike path to points north of Halletts Point

- Ferry site is adjacent to the Q103 stop on Vernon Blvd, and within 2-3 blocks of five other bus routes
- Around 1 mile (15-20 min. walk) to Astoria Blvd subway (N, Q)
Pedestrian Safety: Vernon Blvd / Esplanade

Quick vehicle paths
Limited sight distance

Common walking paths
Ferry Landing

End two-way bike lane

Signalized pedestrian crossings

ASTORIA HOUSES

Bus Stop

VERNON BLVD

8TH ST

MAIN AVE

WELLING CT

30th RD
A number of security gate options are available to protect pedestrians when the ferry landing is closed. These are approved by the Coast Guard.
Other Design Considerations

- Existing use of esplanade
  - Playground and benches
  - Fishing
  - Astoria Houses residents

- Other potential projects
  - Proposed Halletts Cove Boathouse
  - Astoria Cove and Halletts Point
Conceptual Design

Design Features:
- Accommodates multiple vessel types
- Preserves options for boathouse
- Minimal impact to esplanade
- Ample water depth
- Places most amenities on the landing (ticket machines, info kiosks, waiting areas etc.)
Technical Studies - Waterside

- Acceptable water depth near esplanade
- Calm, protected water with moderate currents/eddies
- Sensitive to other projects in the area
**Shared waters**

**Design Elements**

- Careful siting with buffer distances from areas with small boats
- Low-speed vessel operations (no wake zone) on approach and landing
- Boat wakes are pointed away from small boats
- Minimal physical and operational footprint within the larger Halletts Cove area

Photos courtesy of Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Interagency Coordination

- **Parks**
  - Maintenance of esplanade
  - Working with EDC to use site.

- **City DOT**
  - Pedestrian and bike safety
  - Potential auto impacts
  - Signage and way-finding
  - Bicycle facilities

- **City Planning**
  - Housing and economic development projects
  - Waterfront planning

- **NYCHA**
  - Working with Astoria Houses Tenants Association
  - Way-finding and signage on Astoria Houses campus.
  - Preserving space on esplanade for local residents’ use
Breakout Sessions and Leaders

- **Community and Transportation**
  - Councilman Constantinides
  - Alan Meyers, Parsons Brinckerhoff
  - Keith Dumanski, EDC Government and Community Relations

- **Ferry Landing Design**
  - Maki Onodera, CH2M Hill
  - Andrew Genn, EDC Ports & Transportation
  - Peter Flynt, EDC Asset Management

- **Citywide Ferry Plan**
  - James Wong, EDC Ports & Transportation
  - Lydia Downing, EDC Government and Community Relations
Special Thanks

- Councilman Costa Constantinides - NYC Council
- Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney - US House of Representatives
- Senator Michael Giannaris - NY State Senate
- Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan - NY State Assembly
- Pastor Jackson - First Reform Church of Astoria
- Ms. Claudia Coger - President, Astoria Houses Tenants Association
- Robert Piazza - Chair, CB1 Transportation Committee
- Richard Khuzami - Chair, CB1 Parks Committee
- Bishop Mitchell Taylor - President of Urban Upbound
- Karen Means - Executive VP of External Affairs, Goodwill NY/NJ