MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

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Date: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Rex Richardson

Subject: Participating in Regional Pier-to-Pier Transportation Planning Efforts

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RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Manager to take formal steps to establish Long Beach as a major destination and participant in the Pier-to-Pier Coastal Ferry Program, working with all appropriate departments including Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works, and engaging with regional partners including LA Metro and the Board of Supervisors to leverage the Belmont Pier, the Queen Mary, the City's downtown waterfront, and other coastal assets to support the development of innovative regional transportation systems to better connect Long Beach to cities across the region in preparation for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

DISCUSSION

Across the Los Angeles region, momentum is building around the "Pier-to-Pier" concept — an effort to restore historic coastal connections between waterfront communities through alternative modes of transportation and reimagine how residents, workers, and visitors move along the Pacific coastline. Rather than relying solely on congested corridors such as the 405 Freeway or Pacific Coast Highway, this initiative envisions a network of water-based transportation options that strengthen connectivity between destinations such as Long Beach, the South Bay, Marina Del Rey, Santa Monica, and Malibu, while fostering a shared sense of coastal identity and community.

The Belmont Pier, the Queen Mary, and the downtown waterfront are some of Long Beach's most iconic coastal assets and serve as key gateways to the City's recreational amenities and tourism economy. As the City continues to invest in its coastline and prepare for major regional and international events, including the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, there is a timely opportunity to both enhance these assets and position Long Beach as a leader in innovative, sustainable, and multimodal coastal transportation.

Long Beach is uniquely positioned to play a leadership role in these regional transportation efforts. Strategic investments in the Belmont Pier or around the Queen Mary could support its function as a key node in a future coastal mobility network,

including potential ferry or water taxi services. Early concepts include pilot ferry operations that could be launched in coordination with regional partners and private operators, providing a scenic, reliable, and congestion-free connection across the harbor and along the coastline. These services could serve both everyday transportation needs and major city events, and longer-term planning for the 2028 Olympic Games.

A water-based transportation connection between Long Beach and San Pedro, in particular, presents significant benefits. It would provide an alternative to roadway travel during periods of high congestion, support regional mobility planning efforts led by LA Metro and Los Angeles County, and enhance first- and last-mile connections to existing transit systems. Additionally, it would create a unique visitor experience, linking major destinations such as the Long Beach waterfront, the LA Waterfront, the Aquarium, and nearby cultural and commercial centers, while supporting local small businesses and tourism activity.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is well positioned to serve as a lead partner in coordinating with regional agencies, including Los Angeles County, Metro, and waterfront operators, to explore feasibility, funding opportunities, and implementation strategies. Potential public investments — including infrastructure upgrades, passenger amenities, and docking capacity — could unlock new opportunities for public-private partnerships and grant funding, including support through regional initiatives and philanthropic efforts focused on coastal access and connectivity.

This effort reflects a broader vision of creating a more sustainable, accessible, and connected coastline — one that prioritizes multimodal transportation, reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, and restores a tradition of coastal connection for future generations. Advancing planning and investment in the City's coastal assets, while actively engaging in regional Pier to Pier efforts, represents a forward-looking approach to mobility, economic development, and environmental stewardship in Long Beach.

Through these transportation partnerships, the City of Long Beach will be able to bolster its leadership in shaping regional coastal transportation solutions, leverage upcoming global events, and deliver lasting benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff Report Pending.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Rex Richardson