



News

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## FERRY IDEAS FLOATED FROM NEW YORK CITY TO LYNN

**PHOTO BY BOB ROCHE**

*Lynn Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Director James Cowdell, NY Waterway Executive Vice President Arthur Imperatore Jr., U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton and state Sen. Thomas M. McGee discuss the Lynn Ferry on Friday at the Blossom Street extension dock.*

**BY THOR JOURGENSEN**

LYNN — Arthur Imperatore Jr.'s ferry boats make 40,000 commuter trips over New York City waterways every weekday, but the NY Waterway executive vice president took time Friday to offer positive encouragement for the two-year-old Lynn-Boston ferry.

“I think there’s tremendous potential here. Early indications are very positive,” said Imperatore as he looked over the Blossom Street extension ferry’s gangway and dock.

Imperatore came to Lynn at the invitation of close friend Jason Denoncourt, economic development director to U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, who joined the pair in the ferry parking lot along with state Sen. Thomas M. McGee, state Rep. Brendan Crighton, City Council President Dan Cahill and city Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Director James Cowdell.

Moulton has made Lynn’s waterfront revitalization a priority for his work in Congress and focused Denoncourt’s attention on the city and its potential development sites.

The Lynn-to-Boston ferry exceeded ridership expectation in its first season in the spring and summer of 2014, and added riders last summer. But Imperatore said the keys to making the ferry a long-term success include “frequency, reliability, speed and comfort — and it needs to run year-round,” he said.

NY Waterway operates 31 routes from 25 terminals, providing waterway commuter service to New York City, but Imperatore said his business and the Lynn ferry share humble beginnings. NY Waterway's first ferry crossed the Hudson River from a dock in New Jersey and Imperatore said "patience and perseverance" helped the company add routes and ferry terminals.

"We pioneered the ferry system in New York and put it back together again," he said.

Working with Cowdell, McGee spearheaded efforts to obtain state money to pay for a two-year pilot program to operate the Lynn-Boston ferry with a boat provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. McGee envisions commuter ferry service expanding into Boston Harbor routes and even Provincetown destinations. He is working with Cowdell and other city officials to ensure money is available to pay for a continued service this summer.

"We want this to be a 52-week venture," Cowdell said.

Imperatore also attended a briefing Friday on the waterfront's development potential and, on Thursday, he rode the Hingham ferry studied carefully by Cowdell and other local officials who hope to repeat that South Shore community's success in linking water transport to development.

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