

NY WATERWAY COMPANY HISTORY

Updated: March 22, 2021

December 3, 1986	NY Waterway ferry (then called Port Imperial) inaugurates; first private trans-Hudson ferry in nearly 20 years.
Fall 1987	Downtown ferry service begins.
March 13, 1989	Launch of ferry service between Lincoln Harbor and Midtown.
October 16, 1989	Ferry service from Hoboken to World Financial Center launches.
July 1990	NJ TRANSIT bus service to ferries undergoes major route expansion to service additional NJ towns; Midtown service begins to Lincoln Center, Downtown Loop.
December 5, 1991	Port Imperial system celebrates its fifth anniversary, now carries 5 million passengers annually.
April 1994	NY Waterway is adopted as new name, signifying regional growth.
Spring/Summer 1994	NY Waterway launches service from Colgate in Jersey City, later renamed Paulus Hook, to World Financial Center in lower Manhattan.
October 1994	Hunters Point, Queens to East 34th Street, Manhattan service begins.
August 1995	NY Waterway and Downtown Alliance institute Downtown Bus Loop to service ferry commuters, downtown residents and tourists.
May 1996	NY Waterway acquires Port Liberté, Jersey City service to Pier 11/Wall Street.
September 1996	NY Waterway East River Express launches with a six-week demonstration project with stops at East 90 th Street, East 34 th Street and South Street Seaport. The service is the forerunner of the current East River ferry services.
January 5, 1998	NY Waterway begins service between Staten Island and Midtown Manhattan.
April 1998	NY Waterway purchases Harbor Shuttle Inc., which increases its fleet to 20 boats and assumes the operation of the Delta Water Shuttle, providing ferry service to and from Manhattan and LaGuardia's Marine Air Terminal.
June 1998	NY Waterway launches its third ferry route from Jersey City to lower Manhattan: Harborside to the World Financial Center.
June 1998	Sandy Hook ferry service commences on weekends, transporting sun-worshippers from Midtown and Downtown Manhattan to the beach.
August 31, 1998	NY Waterway launches another ferry route from Harborside, Jersey City to Midtown Manhattan, the first link to Midtown from lower Hudson County in 50 years.

March 1999	NY Waterway begins ferry service from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ to North Cove Yacht Harbor at the World Financial Center.
September 1999	NY Waterway is awarded the contract to provide high-speed ferry service from Monmouth County, NJ to Downtown and Midtown Manhattan.
December 1999	NY Waterway begins its fifth ferry route from Jersey City to lower Manhattan, Liberty Harbor to World Financial Center.
August 2000	NY Waterway begins ferry service from Haverstraw, NY to Ossining, NY to connect with Metro North trains that will take passengers to Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan.
April 2, 2001	NY Waterway begins two new ferry services: Port Imperial, Weehawken to World Financial Center and Hoboken at 14th Street to Midtown/West 38 th Street.
September 11, 2001	NY Waterway evacuates 160,000 people from Manhattan after terrorists attack the World Trade Center.
September 2001	All NY Waterway Downtown Manhattan ferries, are re-routed from World Financial Center dock to Pier 11, Wall Street. For weeks, Waterway ferries were the only transit link between New Jersey and lower Manhattan, carrying more than 60,000 passengers per day. NY Waterway Ferries play a critical role in transporting people to work so New York City's financial markets could re-open just six days after the 9/11 attacks.
October 3, 2001	NY Waterway begins two new ferry routes to meet commuter demand: East River ferry service between East 90 th Street, East 34 th Street and Pier 11/Wall Street; and from Colgate in Jersey City, NJ to West 38 th Street in Midtown Manhattan.
December 3, 2001	NY Waterway begins ferry service from Newport, Jersey City to West 38th Street and Pier A, Battery Park.
March 25, 2002	NY Waterway begins new service from Hoboken South to Pier 11/Wall Street and expanded service from Hoboken South to the World Financial Center and Pier A, Battery Park.
June 28, 2002	NY Waterway begins service to Belmar, N.J. The ferry departs for Belmar on Friday evenings, and returns on Sunday, offering NY Waterway passengers a traffic-free weekend at the beach.
October 28, 2002	NY Waterway begins service from Belford, in Monmouth County, N.J. to both Midtown and Downtown Manhattan.
March 29, 2003	Weekend service from Newport to both Midtown and Downtown begins.
March 31, 2003	NY Waterway begins rush hour service from Hoboken North to World Financial Center.
April 19, 2003	New weekend service begins, connecting Port Liberté to both Midtown and World Financial Center.

August 8, 2003	Following the Blackout of 2003, NY Waterway ferries are the only transit link between Manhattan and New Jersey, carrying 160,000 people in one day.
November 3, 2003	Ferry service from Harborside to Midtown begins.
December 1, 2003	Two new ferry services begin: Newport to Wall Street/Pier 11 and Harborside to Wall Street/Pier 11.
May 3, 2004	New ferry service begins from Harborside, Jersey City to World Financial Center.
October 23, 2005	The new Midtown ferry terminal operated and maintained by NY Waterway, opens at 39 th Street in the Hudson River Park, welcoming thousands of commuters for the first time.
May 23, 2006	NY Waterway officially opens the new Port Imperial Ferry Terminal in Weehawken, NJ, offering a direct connection to the newly completed light rail station. The new facility replaces the Jamestown ferry terminal with four ferry slips capable of docking four ferry boats simultaneously, boosting capacity to up to nearly 20,000 passengers per hour and offering 100 daily departures.
November 1, 2006	NY Waterway launches ferry service between Edgewater, NJ and Midtown.
Spring/Summer 2007	NY Waterway begins providing supplemental service from lower Manhattan to Governors Island, as it opens to the public.
January 15, 2009	<p>NY Waterway ferry crews rescue 143 passengers from US Airways Flight 1549 which emergency landed in the Hudson River, now known as The Miracle On the Hudson. NY Waterway ferries are the first to respond saving 143 of the 155 passengers.</p> <p>A total of 14 NY Waterway ferries respond to the crash, on the Hudson River at 42nd Street, and seven of those ferries remove almost all of the passengers within minutes. Passengers are taken to NY Waterway ferry terminals at West 39th Street in Manhattan and Port Imperial in Weehawken, where office staff establish triage centers for those who had been exposed to the 30-degree waters of the Hudson River.</p>
January 2, 2012	NY Waterway is the first US ferry transportation company to launch a phone-based app that incorporates all payment and ticketing.
October 29, 2012	Hurricane 'Superstorm' Sandy hits New York & New Jersey with its storm surge flooding street, tunnels and subway lines and cutting power across the region. NY Waterway service is suspended one day and immediately resumes the next day, being the only commuter transit service between New Jersey and New York. Waterway continues serving affected PATH customers into January 2013.
February 19, 2013	In partnership with Goldman Sachs, NY Waterway begins daily ferry service between Paulus Hook to Brookfield Place.
September 6, 2016	Warner Brothers releases the feature movie 'Sully' (Starring Tom Hanks & Directed by Clint Eastwood) depicting the emergency landing and passenger rescue of US Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River. NY Waterway is

beautifully portrayed with stirring music as our ferries come to the rescue. Capt. Vincent Lombardi and actors portray our ferry crews at their best.

- December 12, 2016** NY Waterway announces it has acquired Billy Bey and the 11 ferry routes it operates in the region.
- July 10 - Sep 1, 2017** As a result of construction at New York's Penn Station, NY Waterway is called in to service to provide special weekday service to Midtown from Hoboken's NJ TRANSIT terminal in Hoboken, cross-honoring all NJ TRANSIT rail ticket holders.
- September 5, 2017** NY Waterway starts official weekday service to Midtown from the Hoboken NJ TRANSIT terminal in Hoboken. NY Waterway has operated commuter ferry service between the Hoboken and Lower Manhattan since 1989. This begins its service to Midtown from this terminal.
- October 2, 2017** Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop joins NY Waterway Founder and President Arthur E. Imperatore in launching NY Waterway's new ferry service from Harborside in Jersey City to Midtown and Brookfield Place.
- October 14, 2017** NY Waterway Chairman Armand Pohan is named Fort Lee Regional Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year for 2017.
- May 4, 2020** With COVID-19 spreading across the region, all NY Waterway ferry routes suspended except Paulus Hook to Brookfield Place.
- June 29, 2020** As the region reopens, NY Waterway resumes modified weekday service on 3 routes: Port Imperial/Weehawken to Midtown/West 39th Street, Hoboken/NJ TRANSIT Terminal to Brookfield Place, and Belford/Middletown to Pier 11/Wall Street, Brookfield Place and Midtown.
- July 6, 2020** As the region continues its phased reopening, NY Waterway restores modified service on 4 routes between Hoboken/14th Street and Midtown, Lincoln Harbor and Midtown, Liberty Harbor and Pier 11/Wall Street, and Paulus Hook and Pier 11/Wall Street. Restored service includes extensive health and safety measures.
- October 25, 2020** American Dream Mall and NY Waterway launch a partnership to provide fast, convenient service to the new mall via ferries between Midtown and Port Imperial, and shuttle buses between Port Imperial and the Meadowlands.
- October 3, 2020** NY Waterway restores weekend ferry service from Port Imperial in Weehawken and 14th Street in Hoboken to Midtown/West 39th Street, marking the return to seven-day-a-week operations.
- November 18, 2020** NY Waterway Founder & President Arthur E. Imperatore, the visionary entrepreneur who invented the modern commuter ferry system, dies at the age of 95.
- February 26, 2021** NY Waterway expands weekend evening service between Midtown, Hoboken and Weehawken. Service between Midtown and Port Imperial extends 1 hour on Fridays, and service between Midtown, Port Imperial and Hoboken 14th Street extends 2 hours on Saturdays.

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NY Waterway increase frequency of weekday midday service between Port Imperial, Midtown and Hoboken 14th Street from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes, resuming all day direct service.