



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Cape May-Lewes Ferry Sees Strong Summer Rebound, Continuing Fall Surge *Two Thirds of Passengers Say Ferry Safer Than Other Modes of Transportation*

CAPE MAY, NJ - Today, Cape May-Lewes Ferry officials announced the peak summer season ferry and travel trends from May 1 through August 31. And the data are encouraging. Summer traffic was close to 2019 pre-Covid highs, while initial Fall data (September and October) is even more impressive, showing ferry traffic during the shoulder season, so far, to be the highest in more than five years. Of particular importance is that passengers feel the ferry system to be a very safe way to travel, when compared with other modes of transportation.

Based on passenger survey results compiled by Customer by Design, LLC, Fair Lawn, NJ on behalf of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry system, it is clear that passengers feel very safe riding the ferry, despite the summer uptick in Covid-19 cases due to the Delta variant.

“Over 90% of passengers surveyed indicated that they felt very safe riding the ferry,” said Heath Gehrke, Director of Ferry Operations at the Delaware River Bay Authority. “One advantage we have over other modes of transportation is that – for the most part – the trip across the Delaware Bay can be an outdoor experience, where they can enjoy the bay breezes and fresh air with plenty of distance from other passengers.”

“The total number of passengers per ferry crossing this past summer was very close to 2019 summer highs,” added Gehrke, indicating that the ferry system remains a preferred mode of transportation for visitors and residents alike as they travel to the many destinations on either side of Delaware Bay.

“Even more encouraging is that the strong summer season really seems to have carried over into the current shoulder season, with vehicle traffic up 12% over 2019 highs in October, and passenger traffic up 5% over the same period. While these trends support broader travel and tourism patterns, the widespread recognition of the ferry system as a safe way to travel has no doubt helped us achieve these near historical highs,” concluded Gehrke.

For October 2021, vehicle and passenger counts were the highest for month since 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Vehicle Traffic

	2019	2020	2021
May	25,520	4,715	23,194
June	30,931	15,945	27,815
July	39,900	21,093	33,573
August	40,305	21,740	33,396
September	29,592	19,702	29,961
October	21,168	15,648	23,676
Grand Total	187,416	98,843	171,615

Passenger Traffic

	2019	2020	2021
May	66,437	8,134	59,668
June	96,587	36,745	83,507
July	146,356	57,196	119,792
August	152,231	64,697	114,843
September	86,927	53,159	79,279
October	51,976	39,562	56,461
Grand Total	600,514	259,493	513,550

About the Cape May-Lewes Ferry

Owned and operated by the Delaware River and Bay Authority, the Cape May – Lewes Ferry is open year-round and has carried more than 43 million passengers since its inception on July 1, 1964. As an integral transportation system connecting the communities and economies on both sides of the Delaware Bay, the Ferry service is a significant catalyst for economic growth and regional tourism activity in New Jersey and Delaware. Its operations sustain over 4,000 jobs while generating tens of millions of dollars in local taxes and hundreds of millions in regional economic activity. For schedules and rates, please visit www.CMLF.com or call 800-643-3779.