

*Money will be used to upgrade ferries; improve docking and support facilities*

**Washington, DC** - 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative John Barrow (D-GA) today announced that the Savannah Belles Water Ferry system has received a Federal Transportation Grant in the amount of \$330,667.00. The money will be used to upgrade the current fleet of ferries, design and construct new vessel support facilities, provide improved overnight mooring for the ships, and help better connect ferry service with local bus transit service.

“This money will help improve and expand an important transportation alternative for the City of Savannah,” Barrow said. “The Belle Ferries are as much a part of the city's identity as they are part of our economy. And as the region continues to grow, we need to make sure the ferries remain an integral part of the city's transportation system.”

Managed by the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT), the passenger-only Belles Ferry System provides a direct link across the Savannah River - connecting three points in the City of Savannah and Hutchinson Island, Georgia, site of the 330,000 square foot Savannah International Trade & Convention Center.

The new support facilities, currently planned to be located on public land along Slip #3 on Hutchinson Island, will include new office space and parking for ferry operators and personnel.

The project will also include the design and construction of an access road to the terminal facility - providing a direct link that would allow passengers to transfer between the ferryboats and the regular transit bus routes currently operated by CAT.

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