



Marine Transportation Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
P.O. Box 112500 • Juneau, AK 99811-2500

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October 27, 2011

Mr. Andy Hughes
Transportation Planner
Alaska Department of Transportation
PO Box 112506
Juneau, AK 99811-250

Re: SATP Recommendations

Mr. Hughes:

Thank you for the extensive time you and your staff spent in the recent work session and special meeting with the Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) regarding the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP). This long-range plan sets the critical path for the ferry system, and the investments made by the State of Alaska in support of its implementation will ultimately provide the region with a transportation system that will meet the basic needs of southeast communities while supporting local, regional and state economies.

The MTAB met on October 14, 2011 to consider the various options offered in the SATP Scoping Report and passed the following motion:

The Marine Transportation Advisory board will develop a letter of support for the SATP that articulates the MTAB position including the retention of both the Bellingham and Cross-Gulf ferry routes, the construction of an additional Alaska Class ferry and one mainliner replacement ferry, consideration of a Berner's Bay ferry terminal that includes an inherent Public Transportation component to support walk-on ferry passengers, and funding for the design phase for the Sitka-Baranof Warm Springs road. Road links should be built where appropriate and possible in order to shorten ferry runs and create an efficient transportation system.

Alaska policy-makers created a transportation system in the AMHS that provides a vital service to both local residents and citizens throughout the country and is used extensively by members of the U.S. military. The MTAB believes that a SATP that includes these objectives will best provide the framework that will afford the safe movement of people and goods throughout the region and state. It is critical that the SATP outline these objectives in such a way that they can be systematically achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for the development of the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan. Feel free to contact me at any time for more information or to answer any questions that may arise.

On behalf of the Marine Transportation Advisory Board,

Robert Venables, Chair

cc: Governor Parnell
Alaska State Legislature
Southeast Conference