Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan Implementation Progress Report

SE Conference

DOT&PF

Southeast Region

September 2006
Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan

- Improve Mobility of Alaskans
  - Increase Opportunity to travel
    - By direct road connections
    - By more frequent ferry service
    - By more frequent air service
    - By reducing cost of travel
    - By reducing travel time
    - By increasing reliability of carrier schedules

- Improve Transport Efficiency
  - Reduce the Overall Total Annual System Cost
    - By investment in infrastructure
    - By investment in technology
    - By investment in modern vehicles of transportation
    - By reducing and eliminating subsidies
    - By measuring the efficiency of the system and its parts

- Improve System Capacity
  - Investment in infrastructure and vehicles of air, land & marine transportation
Alternative F1, East Channel crossing looking South from 3rd Avenue

Alternative F1 (DOT&PF and FHWA preferred)

Alternative F1 is estimated to have a $328 million construction and project development cost. The bridges would not affect the Part 77 airspace associated with Ketchikan International Airport. Cruise ships would continue to access Ketchikan via East Channel and navigate through Tongass Narrows unimpeded. The roads across Pennock and Gravina Islands would provide access to developable land and recreation lands.
Alternative F1, East Channel crossing looking South from 3rd Avenue
**Walden Point Road**

**Winter 2006/2007**
- **Northend Denali Grant**
  - **Military**
    - Construct Pioneer Road to Ferry Terminal
      - 2 Road Crews
      - Drillers & Operators
      - Equipment

- **Southend BIA & FHWA Funds**
  - Metlakatla Indian Community
    - Construct Pioneer Road to Community
      - 1 Road Crew
    - Start Construction of Retaining Wall
    - Start Construction on 3 Bridges
South Mitkof Terminal Transfer Bridge Viewed from Ship
Fast Ferries

- Recommended by Plan
- AMHS is working to overcome operations and cost challenges,
- Continue to evaluate them
North Panhandle Transportation Study Contract Cancelled May 2006

• The Contractor was over a year behind schedule,
• A Draft Plan based on the existing LeConte 24/7 operations was under review and a final rewrite in May when the USCG issued their 638 Order regarding crew rest rules.
• The Coast Guard Order invalidated the ferry component of the plan – the key component.
• The air and land components are all contained in the current regional plan.
• We were not prepared to start over from scratch with a consultant that was not performing.
Northern Panhandle Transportation Plan
Where do we go from here?

• We intend to monitor and evaluate current service,
• AMHS is in the process of soliciting service proposals from commercial marine carriers for the transport of passengers and vehicles,
• The Department will evaluate its options as we gain experience with the new operating environment and in response to commercial service proposals,
• Any future marine service study will be conducted internally or by a new consultant.
Kake Petersburg Road

• Southeast Region will request funding to initiate a study to produce an environmental document to develop this 50 mile community road connection in phases.

• EA has been completed to upgrade the first 7 miles of FH-40 to Seal Point.
Future Plan Initiatives

- Revillagigedo Highway to connect Ketchikan to the continental highway system via the Bradfield Canal highway,
- Continued improvement of the road system on Prince of Wales Island,
- Construction of a road system on Chichagof Island to better tie island communities together.
The Plan also includes Aviation

• Major Runway Safety Area Projects are in progress at the following airports:
  – Wrangell: Under Construction
  – Ketchikan: Construction 2007,
  – Petersburg: under design
  – Sitka: EIS in process,
  – Gustavus: Environmental Planning

• Seaplane Terminal Improvements
  – Coffman Cove: Under Construction
  – Clarke Bay: Construction Contract Awarded

• New Airport for Angoon: EIS Initiated by FAA
An Efficient Mode of Travel to Small Southeast Communities