



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 10, 2016

Contact: Shelly Wright, shellyw@seconference.org, 907-586-4360

Southeast Conference begins AMHS strategic planning effort
RFP release marks beginning of process to insure AMHS viability and sustainability

- Juneau, Alaska

Southeast Conference issued a Request for Proposals today that takes the first step toward a comprehensive operational and business plan for the Alaska Marine Highway System. Phase One will focus on the governance structure that is best suited to operate the AMHS in an economically optimal way that meets the user's needs.

"For over 50 years, the Alaska Marine Highway System has served as a critical transportation link for Alaska's coastal communities," said Governor Walker during the May 19th signing of the MOU with Southeast Conference. "The ferries are a lifeline in many communities, and the economic benefits are felt throughout the state."

This project will have a formal kickoff with a stakeholders' summit in late summer. "This first phase of statewide stakeholder involvement and governance modeling is a small but significant step toward insuring the system's long-term viability", stated Garry White, Board President for Southeast Conference. "The current fiscal challenges require that transformational changes be made to have a responsive and sustainable ferry system for the next generation".

To find out more, visit Southeast Conference on its website at www.seconference.org.

-end-

About the Southeast Conference: Southeast Conference began 58 years ago to advocate and support the establishment of a regional marine transportation system. Southeast Conference serves as the collective voice for advancing the region and state's economy while supporting activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.