



Southeast Conference Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2020, 10 AM

Minutes

Call to Order/Opening Remarks: Chair Dennis Watson opened the meeting at 10:00 am via Zoom with more than 20 participants, including Shannon Adamson, Gregory Smith, Clay Koplín, McHugh Pierre, John Waterhouse, Michelle O'Brien, Senator Dan Ortiz, Liz Harpold, Courtney Wendel, Joanne Schmidt, KC Hostetler, Carl Ramseth, David Kensinger, John Falvey, Dianne Blumer, Bruce Lambert, Dana Herndon, and SEC Staff Meilani Schijvens, Sarah Woodruff, and Robert Venables.

Robert Venables introduced special guest, Bruce Lambert who spoke about his job as Gateway Director of the Alaska Maritime Administration. He said the majority of his job is listening to needs and matching those need with grants and programs.

Meilani Schijvens gave an overview of the SWOT analysis prioritization and presented a power point detailing these findings. She asked for input regarding the previously identified economic initiatives. There was much discussion surrounding the objectives. See updated Transportation CEDS.

Captain John Falvey gave an update on AMHS and said there have been many financial challenges due to COVID. Initially, they assessed how the ferry system and travelers would be affected by the virus and implemented plans to keep everyone safe. AMHS received 10 million in CARES funding. There is a deficit of 45 million in revenue loss. The new schedule beginning October 1 will be out next week. He also spoke about the need to rebuild the Prince Rupert facility, but that would have to wait until the borders re-opened. Representative Dan Ortiz asked if meetings with Prince Rupert could be initiated via Zoom? Captain Falvey said that was a possibility.

Executive Director, Robert Venables spoke about the potential speakers at the Annual meeting that would pertain specifically to transportation. He said that Deputy Commissioner Rob Carpenter would be there as well as Admiral Barrett to give a report. IFA would also be on the agenda. These reports would help the AMHS Reform committee identify the gaps and needs.

With no other announcements for the good of the order, the Chair announced the next meeting of the transportation committee will be on October 21 at 10AM. **The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.**