

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Paxton and Assembly Members

From: Keith Brady, Municipal Administrator

Date: March 20, 2019

Subject: Harbor Drive Cement Work for the RIDE

Summary

In order to reduce congestion, increase traffic flow and increase safety due to the growth of tourism, staff has been working with the RIDE to move the buses from Crescent Harbor parking lot to Harbor Drive in front of Harrigan Centennial Hall (HCH).

Fiscal Note

\$40,000 for the landscape and cement work to allow ADA compliance and ridership on the RIDE.

Recommendation

Approve the appropriation for the work to be able to be done so the RIDE can utilize the sidewalk on Harbor Drive in front of HCH as their bus stop.

Detail

With tourism numbers projected to be up this year, especially due to 30,000 from cruise ship passengers alone, staff has been working on ways to reduce congestion, increase traffic flow and increase safety in the Crescent Harbor parking lot. One of those ways is to move the RIDE to Harbor Drive. Staff have been working with Center for Community Executive Director Connie Sipe and Sitka Tribe of Alaska Transportation Director Gerry Hope on how this could work. The RIDE recently did time trials seeing what could work with their current schedule. We are hoping that through a more thorough look at the routes of their buses that they can make Harbor Drive work for a pick up and drop off point for their riders.

Crescent Harbor parking lot was never meant or designed to have a bus drop off and pick up. It was moved from Harbor Drive on the Stereo North side to the parking lot. The Stereo North side is a blind curve and created issues. HCH side on Harbor Drive has a good line of sight for the buses to be able to pull into traffic safely. At this spot the RIDE would be able to take advantage of the ridership from tourism. The other spot was Harbor Way under or near the foot of the bridge, which would take them away from the tourism and the central location and activity of HCH.

The idea for Harbor Drive is to be able to locate the RIDE where they won't need to be moved again in the foreseeable future.

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Municipal Clerk

1st reading 3/26/19

Sponsor: Administrator

2nd and final reading 4/9/19