

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-13**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REQUESTING
THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM MAINTAIN CORE SERVICE LEVELS, INCLUDING
ONE PRINCE RUPERT VESSEL YEAR-ROUND AND TWO VESSELS MAY THROUGH
SEPTEMBER**

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska coastal communities without access to road systems have depended on the Alaska Marine Highway System for reliable, predictable primary marine transportation service since the creation of AMHS; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System transports the region's residents, visitors, food, health care, supplies, equipment, and seafoods, providing critically important transportation and commerce links within the Region and connections to the rest of Alaska and the lower 48; and

WHEREAS, the continued expansion of the Alaska Marine Highway System to provide new and expanding routes combined with the increasing costs and decreasing revenues available to operate the System are resulting in reduced core service levels in Southeast Alaska including the layup of the Taku through June, 2014, rather than operating this second Prince Rupert vessel during May and June when demand for a second Prince Rupert vessel is at a peak; and

WHEREAS, the seven-month Sitka Winter schedule has consisted for several years of only ONE northbound sailing and two southbounds per week; if the second Prince Rupert vessel is delayed until July, the single Rupert connection in May and June is grossly inadequate to serve Southeast Alaska.

WHEREAS, Sitka is grateful the Fairweather is being repowered this winter. Sitka will heavily use the fast vehicle ferry as soon as it comes out of overhaul to increase May service to Sitka, with full Summer service required by June 1, 2014;

WHEREAS, AMHS has better alternatives to reduce its budget by re-scheduling vessels that would not restrict core summer service so critical to the economies and citizens of Southeast Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Marine Highway System maintain its essential core service levels to Southeast Alaska with one Prince Rupert and one Bellingham vessel year round and a second Prince Rupert vessel throughout the entire summer season – May through September – and if required modify non-essential vessel schedules to reduce the AMHS budget; and

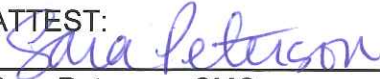
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka requests a consistent, sustainable core service schedule for Southeast Alaska be developed with input from the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, Southeast Conference, and the local communities which have the greatest stake in maintaining reliable AMHS service levels.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 23rd day of July, 2013.



Pete Esquiro, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, CMC
Acting Municipal Clerk