

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

November 20, 2018

Captain John Falvey, Jr., General Manager
Alaska Marine Highway System
7559 North Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, AK 99901-9101

RE: AMHS Proposed Summer 2019 Schedule

Dear Captain Falvey,

The proposed Summer 2019 Alaska Marine Highway schedule provides only one (1) north bound stop, one (1) south bound stop, one (1) Fairweather Fast Ferry stop per week May through Mid-September, and a decline in service to one (1) north bound stop and one (1) south bound stop mid-end of September.

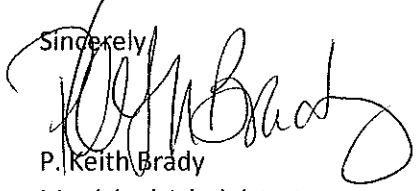
As proposed, AMHS's inadequate service will be highly impactful resulting in significant economic hardship to our community. Elderly, U.S. Coast Guard, Tribal Citizens, people seeking health care, independent travelers and many others will suffer due to this unacceptable level of ferry service.

Sitka has enjoyed service provided by the Fairweather Fast Ferry in previous years and would prefer to see two stops per week as well as a stop that connects Sitka to Angoon. In addition, Southeast Conference is holding their annual membership meeting in Sitka September 17-20. Delegates will be traveling from all over Southeast to attend the session. An additional fast ferry stop could expedite accessibility for more people to attend.

Throughout the years, through repeated letters and resolutions, Sitka has requested equitable service with the rest of the region – a baseline service level of at least two (2) north and two (2) south vessels per week. In this time of budget shortfall, we look forward to working with AMHS and other Southeast communities to create a schedule that provides a parity of service. It is critical that this request and need be recognized and addressed by the State.

Thank you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,


P. Keith Brady

Municipal Administrator

Cc: Senator Bert Stedman
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
CBS Assembly