



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members  
**Thru:** John Leach, Municipal Administrator *John Brantley*, Acting  
**From:** Amy Ainslie, Planning & Community Development Director *A.A.*  
**Date:** July 1, 2025  
**Subject:** 2025 Lincoln Street Closures

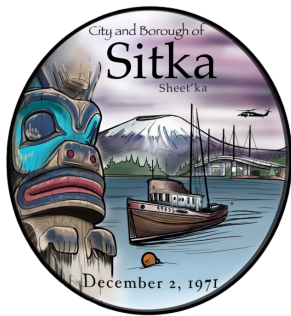
At their May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Assembly gave direction for temporary restroom placement (using the Maksoutoff Street location) and Lincoln Street closures for the 2025 visitor season. On street closures, the Assembly asked that the Tourism Commission provide a recommendation, and to have discussion/direction at their July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to make determinations for the remainder of the season.

At their regular meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Tourism Commission voted unanimously to recommend keeping Lincoln Street open for the remainder of the 2025 visitor season, reassessing at the end of the season to make plans for 2026.

As of the drafting of this memo, Sitka has experienced 29 days with over 5,000 cruise passengers this season. Passenger counts for the remainder of the season (beginning the week of 7/13) are as follows:

Threshold (PAX)	Number of Days	Average Closures per Week
5,000+	28	2.8
6,000+	23	2.3
6,500+	10	1.0
7,000+	5	0.5
7,500+	2	0.2

Enclosed: 5/29/25 Assembly Memo  
2025 Cruise Calendar with Closure Thresholds



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**Thru:** John Leach, Municipal Administrator

**From:** Amy Ainslie, Planning & Community Development Director 

**Date:** May 21, 2025

**Subject:** Downtown Street Closures & Operations for 2025

---

For the last three summers, CBS has closed Lincoln Street between Lake Street and Katlian Street during larger cruise ship days in accordance with the Short-Term Tourism Plan (STTP). For the majority of this time, the closures were triggered when there were 5,000 or more passengers scheduled to be in town, and the street was closed from 10AM – 4PM.

As was reported to the Assembly at their April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, CBS did not do any cruise-related street closures or place temporary restrooms on Lincoln Street for the month of May on a trial-basis. As of the drafting of this memo, Sitka has experienced 8 days with over 5,000 cruise passengers this season.

The Planning Department has received about a dozen public comments regarding the street closures thus far. With the exception of one, all others voiced support for the street closures. Most comments included multiple topics; almost all touched on pedestrian/traffic safety issues (overcrowding leading people to walk in street, jaywalking, visibility issues, accessibility), three comments requested the temporary restrooms to be placed, and half included a preference for the aesthetic/atmosphere created by the street closures.

### **Considerations for Street Closures**

Planning staff have observed Lincoln Street and the downtown area over the last three weeks and found the following:

- Concerns regarding visibility, congestion, and jaywalking were observed/noted. The area around St. Michael's cathedral including the roundabout is of most concern due to the narrow streets/sidewalk and visitors wishing to take photos of the church.
- It does appear that some of the mitigation measures including staggering of ship arrivals and more steady flow of cruise terminal shuttles coming into town are

helping to curb the “surge” of visitors into the downtown area as observed in previous years.

- The alteration of the intersection at Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive (having a dedicated left-turn lane from Lake Street onto Lincoln and a single lane for thru and right turn movements) is more efficient when Lincoln Street is closed.
- Parking along Lincoln Street is being utilized, with a rough estimate of 50-80% utilization during larger cruise days.
- Positions for crossing guards/pedestrian safety attendants have been open – recruiting for these positions has been challenging but may improve as the school-year ends.

Potential options moving forward include:

- Reinstating the street closures beginning in early-mid June (Public Works staff are working to finalize the AK DOT/PF street closure application materials needed if street closures are reinstated). Approximate threshold analysis assuming closures begin the second week of June:
  - 5,000: 44 closures for the season, averaging 3 per week
  - 6,000: 35 closures for the season, averaging 2.3 per week
  - 6,500: 15 closures for the season, averaging 1 per week
  - 7,000: 9 closures for the season, averaging 0.6 per week
- Continue to trial not closing Lincoln Street for the month of June, or for the remainder of the season (with a reassessment at the end of the season to determine options for 2026) and:
  - See if recruitment on crossing guards/pedestrian safety attendants picks up as the school-year ends
  - Assess striping on Lincoln Street to potentially reduce parking and increase visibility particularly near crosswalks and intersections
  - Trial temporary speed bumps particularly around the St. Michaels roundabout

### **Considerations for Temporary Restrooms**

In 2023 and 2024, a temporary restroom facility was placed on Lincoln Street in the parking lane near the **Barracks Street** intersection. This location is ideal because there is power available for the unit here, and CBS service vehicles can utilize the closed portion of Barracks Street to park and get personnel and cleaning equipment to the unit quickly. However, this location only works (and the unit can only be open) when the street is closed because the access stairs impede slightly into the driving lane.

The only other viable location is the top of **Maksoutoff Street**. This location is ideal because it is wide and level enough to place two units side-by-side; in the summer of 2022, CBS did this and placed a standard sized unit as well as the smaller unit that is ADA accessible and has a family/unisex restroom as well. Placement of the smaller unit downtown is particularly challenging due to the extent of the access ramp. This location also allows the restrooms to be open/used on non Lincoln Street closure days. However, this placement requires that Maksoutoff Street be closed – vehicles cannot turn off of Lincoln Street on to Maksoutoff Street nor turn from Harbor Drive on to

Maksoutoff Street to access Lincoln Street. But, the exit driveway from the Wells Fargo parking on to Maksoutoff Street is able to remain open and vehicles can turn left on to Maksoutoff Street to access Harbor Drive. Community feedback in the End of Season survey in 2022 was split evenly for and against this location. The Tourism Commission at their April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting recommended use of the Maksoutoff Street location for temporary restrooms.

Potential Closure Point	# of Days	Avg Closures Per Week
5000+	62	3.1
6000+	48	2.4
6500+	21	1.1
7000+	14	0.7
7500+	6	0.3

CRUISE LINE AGENICES OF ALASKA  
**CRUISE SHIP CALENDAR FOR 2025**  
3/242025

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DATE	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May
PAX	0	0	4234	0	1848	0	0
DATE	4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May	9-May	10-May
PAX	0	5662	3314	5186	6022	6232	850
DATE	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May	16-May	17-May
PAX	0	6612	7493	7214	1848	2600	0
DATE	18-May	19-May	20-May	21-May	22-May	23-May	24-May
PAX	8354	7115	4243	6284	1908	5454	100
DATE	25-May	26-May	27-May	28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May
PAX	1350	6162	7210	2804	6028	0	0
DATE	1-Jun	2-Jun	3-Jun	4-Jun	5-Jun	6-Jun	7-Jun
PAX	4180	5992	5796	6284	6022	2710	100
DATE	8-Jun	9-Jun	10-Jun	11-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jun	14-Jun
PAX	2192	6785	3030	8192	7256	0	0
DATE	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun
PAX	6182	5712	5796	6284	2092	750	100
DATE	22-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun
PAX	160	7715	6274	4106	5640	0	0
DATE	29-Jun	30-Jun	1-Jul	2-Jul	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul
PAX	4180	6112	4926	6284	5424	750	100
DATE	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
PAX	100	7715	2100	6284	6022	60	60
DATE	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul
PAX	7510	6432	4866	7214	3940	750	1030
DATE	20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul
PAX	630	6845	6274	4196	7278	1950	0
DATE	27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug
PAX	5110	5712	4866	6284	4174	810	1960
DATE	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug
PAX	100	6785	3350	6284	6022	3022	0
DATE	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug
PAX	4240	6432	4866	6284	3940	750	1030
DATE	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug
PAX	100	6785	6274	2104	6088	1860	2092
DATE	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug
PAX	4180	5204	4866	6278	5860	0	160
DATE	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep
PAX	160	6785	6280	8132	1250	3022	0
DATE	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep
PAX	6780	4454	4926	6284	930	4924	930
DATE	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep
PAX	100	5877	6152	7214	2376	3082	3150
DATE	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep
PAX	1780	4216	4180	2554	4174	0	0
DATE	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep
PAX	1787	4216	4180	2554	4174	0	0
DATE	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct
PAX	0	0	4180	2104	0	0	0