



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

July 25, 2017

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

RE: AMHS Proposed Winter 2017-2018 Schedule

Dear Captain Falvey,

The proposed Winter 2017-2018 Alaska Marine Highway schedule provides one (1) north and two (2) south bound stops to Sitka throughout the winter.

We request consideration be granted to having the Malaspina stop in Sitka on its 2nd northbound trip of the week. This stop could occur within the current schedule and provide 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 addition, we propose that the Malaspina stop in Angoon after its Sitka stop during the 1st northbound trip of the week. Our community members continue to request this stop, connecting Sitka to Angoon, as many have family and tribal connections that would benefit with increased ferry service.

Front and center of Alaska's 150th Anniversary, Sitka will have a variety of commemoration activities during the month of October. Adding an increase to ferry service during the month would ensure that all visitors can attend. Fast ferry service, connecting Sitka and Juneau, would be preferable.

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,

Phillip Messina
Interim Municipal Administrator

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

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