



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

July 7, 2015

Captain John Falvey, Jr., General Manager
Alaska Marine Highway System
RE: F/W/S/2015-16 Marine Highway Schedule Comment

Dear Captain Falvey:

The proposed Fall/Winter/Spring Alaska Marine Highway schedules provides one north and two south bound stops to Sitka. This is the same Sitka schedule as in previous years, despite Sitka's yearly request to add at least one more northbound stop to provide baseline service (at least two vessels each direction). Once again we request that Sitka be served by a second northbound stop.

Without a second northbound vessel, the results are highly impactful causing significant economic hardship to our community. School groups, people seeking health care, and many others have an unacceptable level of ferry service and access for seven months.

In repeated resolutions to AMHS and MTAB, Sitka has requested parity of service with the rest of the region – a baseline service level of at least two (2) north and two (2) south vessels per week. It is imperative that this request and need be recognized and addressed by the State.

Thank you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorman
Municipal Administrator

cc: Senator Stedman
Representative Kreiss-Tomkins
Assembly