



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members
Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 
From: Judson Rusk, Tourism Manager 
Date: February 24, 2026
Subject: Lincoln Street Operations, 2026 Season

Background

At its January 15, 2026 meeting, the Tourism Commission recommended reevaluating the potential one-way closure options for Lincoln Street identified in the Short-Term Tourism Plan prior to the 2026 cruise season.

On February 2, 2026, representatives from multiple CBS departments met to review these options. Discussion focused on pedestrian and vehicular safety, parking impacts, emergency service access, business impacts, temporary restroom locations, and financial and timeline considerations.

Following deliberation, the group reached consensus that one-way closure options would not be optimal for the 2026 cruise season. The recommendation was that Lincoln Street remain open to vehicular traffic, operating in the same manner as the 2025 season. This recommendation includes the caveat that the Maksoutoff to Lincoln intersection will remain closed as it is still the most convenient location for temporary restroom facilities.

This recommendation was presented to the Tourism Commission on February 19, 2026. The Commission voted unanimously to keep Lincoln Street open for the 2026 season.

Consistent with the Commission's direction, CBS will proceed with the following operational plan:

- Lincoln Street will remain open to vehicular traffic during the 2026 cruise season.
- Public communications surrounding this decision will align with the 2025 season.
- Portable restrooms will be placed at the intersection of Lincoln and Maksoutoff Streets.