



The ALASKA CLASS Ferry Acquisition Project

Summary and Status Report

January 2009



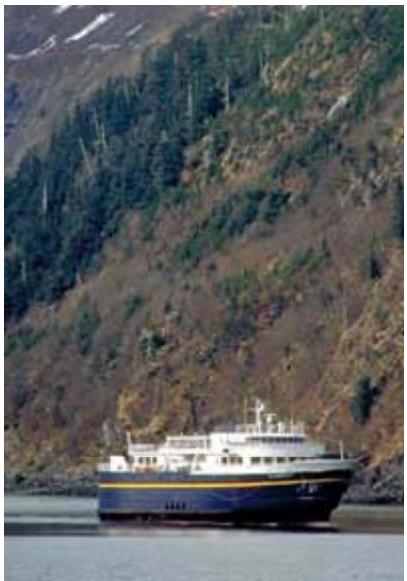


Project Mission Statement

Design and construct the next generation of ferries to begin the replacement of the aging AMHS fleet. These ferries will be environmentally responsible, fuel efficient and versatile. They will enhance AMHS operations on current and future routes within inside waters and enable AMHS to continue its tradition of providing safe, reliable service.



Project Participants



The manager of this project is Alaska Marine Highway. The project team consists of:

- DOT&PF Alaska Marine Highway System (Including Shore Side Managers and Selected Vessel Crew)
- The Alaska Class Working Group: A collaborative team of DOT&PF managers representing other DOT&PF projects affiliated with or affected by the Alaska Class Ferry project.
- Marine Transportation Advisory Board
- Elliott Bay Design Group (Vessel Designer)
- Grady and Associates (Public Involvement Specialist)



Introduction

The Alaska Class Ferry will be the next generation of ferries for the Alaska Marine Highway System. The vessel design will consider the needs of stakeholders in order to:

- Optimize usability of the ferry
- Maintain a reliable level of service to the public



Importance

These new ferries will allow AMHS to continue to accomplish its mission to provide safe, reliable and efficient marine transportation.

- Modern safety features will be incorporated into these vessels.
- Dependable service is essential for the sustainability and growth of commerce and the livelihood of established communities in Alaska.
- Conventional U.S. vehicle ferries typically last 40 to 60 years.
- Four AMHS vessels are 45 years old.
- Old ferries are costly to maintain and operate.
- A new ferry takes 4 to 7 years to acquire.



Mission Background

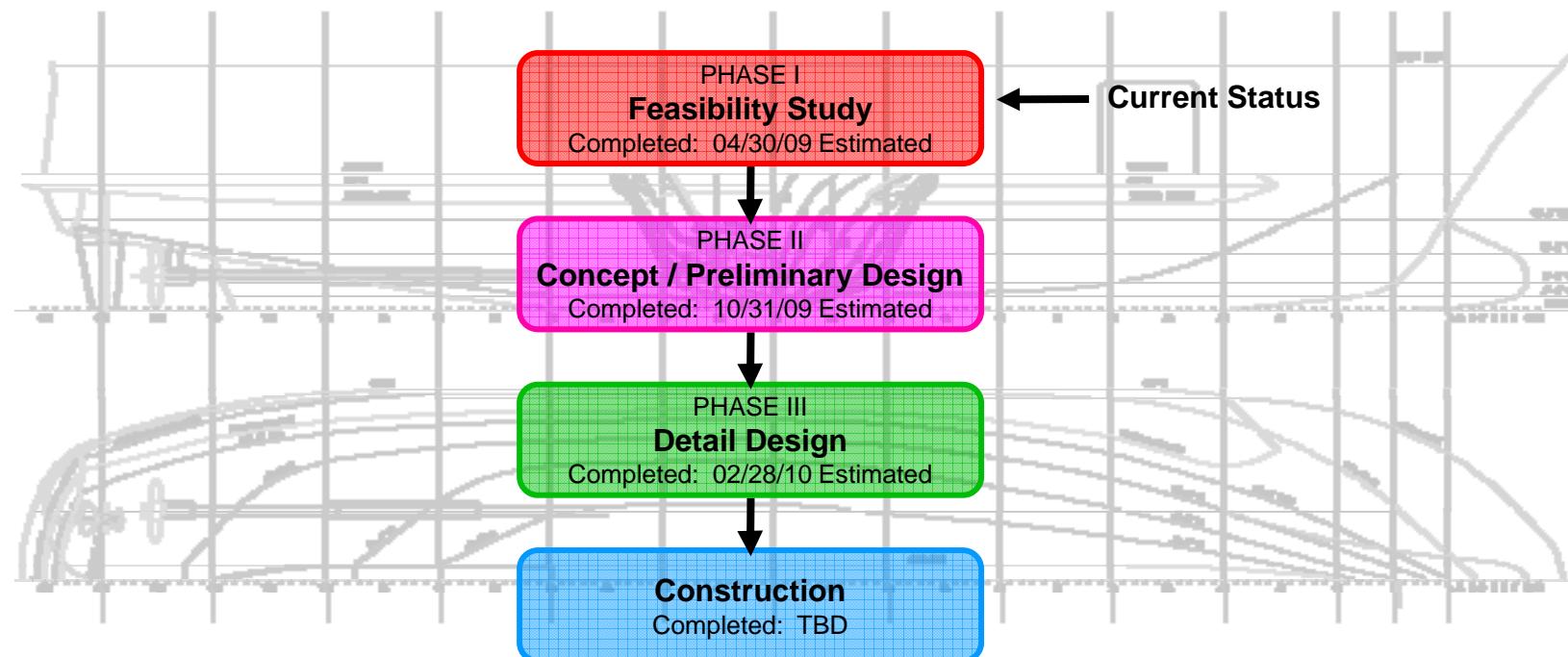
The Alaska Class Ferry is the product of technical evaluations gleaned from past AMHS shuttle projects and is aligned with current DOT&PF strategic plans.

Data gathered through these earlier investigations are being utilized in this design and include:

- Consideration of Alaska winter weather and its affect on the reliability of service.
- Forthcoming air and water emission regulations.
- Support of the on-going improvements in Alaska's transportation system.
- Servicing intermediate length routes within inside waters.
- Improving system versatility by having the capability to operate throughout the AMHS system.



Our approach for developing the optimal design of the new ship consists of three phases:





In Focus

- The Alaska Class Ferry project goal is to acquire multiple new ferries of a single design which will be able to sail reliably within all Alaska inside waters.
- Public input will be actively sought during the design phase of this project.
- Ancillary considerations associated with the Marine Highway infrastructure are not covered under the scope of this project.



On the Horizon

Subsequent questions generated once the design of the ferry is complete will be addressed in collaboration with other DOT&PF authorities and will determine:

- Number of ferries to build
- Specific routes they will service
- Sailing schedules
- Construction location



Public Involvement

The Alaska Class Ferry project considers individual stakeholder and community input critical in determining the efficiency and function of the Alaska Class ferries. Public outreach methods to inform stakeholders and gather relevant input will include:

- Regional public meetings
- Key stakeholder meetings
- A project website (www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/alaska_class)
- A public survey will be available on the website on February 16th, 2009.

Public input concludes April 30, 2009.



Regional Public Meetings

Regional public meetings will be held from February to April of 2009 in the following locations:

City	Date	Facility
Ketchikan	Mid February	TBD
Juneau	Late February	TBD
Anchorage	Mid March	TBD
Sitka	Early April	TBD

Alaska Marine Highway System



For more info:

www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/alaska_class

Alaska Marine Highway System



Questions?

