



March 17, 2024

The Honorable Andy Josephson
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Co-Chair Josephson,

In response to questions posed by the House Finance Committee on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, the following information is provided:

- 1. The committee inquired about vacancies in the Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Compliance and specifically whether vacancies were due to budgetary or funding issues.**

Vacancy Data as of 2/28/2025 is provided below. Vacancies are not attributed to budget and funding issues.

Title	Filled	Vacant	Total	Vacancy
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE COMPLIANCE INSPECTORS	27	8	35	22.9%
WEIGHTS & MEASURES INSPECTORS	6	1	7	14.3%

- 2. The committee asked how many contract bids the department is going to get out in the next few months and to provide the timeline.**

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) projects that during the months of March through May over \$300 million in contracts will be awarded. Overall, this Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), DOT&PF anticipates awarding over \$900 million in contracts.

- 3. The committee asked about the growth projected at the international airports as well as any plans to improve parking at Fairbanks International Airport.**

Please see enclosure titled **Monthly Enplaned Passengers**.

Anchorage International Airport numbers are currently showing a decrease of four percent, strictly for Alaska Airlines, which is likely an error in the airline's reporting to the Airport. Alaska Airlines is currently auditing its own data and should have an update this month as more flights are being scheduled than a year ago.

Both airports have seen an increase in flights overall and an expansion of summer seasonal service as the cruise and tourism industry continues to rebound post COVID. We expect to see further increases in passenger numbers for Summer 2025 based on conversations from route planning representatives from various airlines and our team which includes United, Alaska, and Delta Airlines.

Fairbanks International Airport is up almost 4.7 percent to date over the previous year.

Fairbanks International Airport is working with Conrac Solutions (the entity managing the Anchorage Rental Car Garage) on covered parking, as well as a parking expansion project. It will start this summer and be completed by late 2026, adding 132 spaces. There will also be 80 covered parking spaces as part of the project.

4. The committee inquired about the existence of an analysis on costs to operate the marine highway system on a per user basis vs. the cost to operate a typical state highway.

The department does not have an in-depth analysis but is able to provide the following statistics on users cost and cost recovery across 2023, the latest year for which all data is available. The data below contrasts some use statistics and revenue figures between both modes; however, it is worth noting the Marine Highway System is an extension of our state highway system and the broader multi-modal transportation network.

In 2023, there were 655,300 registered vehicles in Alaska with contributions of \$89.2 million made to the Federal Highway Trust Fund through federal fuel taxes at rates of 18.4 and 24.4 cents per gallon for gasoline and diesel respectively. In FFY2023, the State received 8.73 times more dollars from the trust fund than were paid in. These dollars come back to the State through the Surface Transportation Improvement Program, which provides for construction and preventative maintenance activities. These funds are matched with additional State dollars in the capital budget at a typical ratio of approximately 9:1, Federal: State.

The State also collects a motor fuel tax of eight cents per gallon, collecting \$31.5 million from road users in fiscal year (FY)2023. These funds are appropriated to the department for maintenance and operations of State roads in the operating budget. In FY2023, approximately \$99 million was spent on maintaining and operating state roads through operating appropriations.

In calendar year (CY) 2023, the Alaska Marine Highway carried 63,040 vehicles and 181,182 passengers. The operating costs for this period were \$130.4 million. Farebox receipts in the same period were \$37.1 million. A portion of the receipts were appropriated in the capital budget to support annual overhaul and repairs, while the rest of the receipts were appropriated in the operating budget. The ferry system also receives \$15 to \$25 million annually through the Federal Highway Ferry Boat Program. Since FFY2022, the ferry system

has also been awarded \$548,218,496 in grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration through the Rural Ferry Program.

Registered Vehicles in Alaska (2023) - 655,300 Total								
Automobiles			Buses			Trucks		
Private	Public	Total	Private	Public	Total	Private	Public	Total
127,003	2,246	129,249	7,960	566	8,526	506,715	10,810	517,525

Alaska Vehicle Miles Traveled (2023):
3,246,816

Federal Highway Trust Fund (FFY2023,\$ in Millions)	
Contributions to	89,261
Apportionments from	779,233

State Revenues SFY2023 (\$ in Millions)	
Motor Fuel Tax	31.5
Tire Fees	1.5

State Highway Maintenance & Operations Budget (FY2023, \$ in Millions)	
Highways Portion of Appropriation	99

AMHS System Traffic (CY2023)	
Passengers	181,182
Vehicles	63,040

AMHS Operating (CY2023, \$ in Millions)	
Expenditures	130.4
Farebox Revenue	37.1

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Ryan Anderson, P.E.
Commissioner

Enclosure: Monthly Enplaned Passengers

cc: Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner, DOT&PF
Dom Pannone, Director, Program Management & Administration, DOT&PF
Andy Mills, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, DOT&PF
Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office