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VIA EMAIL: [House.Transportation@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Transportation@akleg.gov)

The Honorable Grier Hopkins, Chair  
Alaska State House Transportation Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Rm 3  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear House Transportation Committee Chair and Members,

Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally recognized Tribal government located in Sitka, Alaska with over 4,800 Tribal citizens. On behalf of Sitka Tribe of Alaska, I am writing to inform you we are supportive of the House Transportation Committee's bill; HB 355 "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan".

Our Tribe supports the House Transportation Committee's Chair, Genevieve Mina's HB 355's Sponsor Statement, which in part, states "...HB 355 seeks to expand the scope of DOT&PF's long-term statewide transportation planning to ensure local input by public, tribal, and community transit programs in improving Alaska's multimodal network...Local collaboration on transportation planning is a requirement for federal funding of transportation projects. Lack of proper public engagement can lead to Title VI violations and puts Alaska at risk of reduced federal funding and lawsuits."

HB 355 amends AS 44.42.020. Powers and Duties to the DOTP&F in support of public and community transit to meet the intent and goals set forth in Representative Mina's statement.



If you have any questions please contact Gerry Hope, Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Transportation Department Director, email; [gerry.hope@sitkatribe-nsn.gov](mailto:gerry.hope@sitkatribe-nsn.gov), or phone 907-747-5910.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Widmark, Chairman  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Cc: The Honorable Sara Hannan, The Honorable Louise Stutes, The Honorable Harriet Drummond, The Honorable Tom McKay, The Honorable Kevin McCabe, and The Honorable Mike Cronk