



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 17, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions raised during the Senate Transportation Committee hearing on April 3, 2025. Please see detailed responses to the committee's inquiries below.

Community Visits and Project Coordination in Southeast Alaska:

Senator Stedman inquired about the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) most recent visit to Yakutat and requested updates on the department's project coordination and community engagement in Kake, Sitka, Prince of Wales Island, Kasaan, and surrounding areas.

Yakutat

DOT&PF last visited Yakutat in March 2024, when Southcoast Region Director Chris Goins and Deputy Director Vicky Roberts met with local staff and the fire department to discuss operational and emergency coordination needs. A Community Transportation Workshop was also held in August 2024, in partnership with the Alaska Municipal League (AML) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, to prioritize local infrastructure needs. Yakutat participates in the Thriving Communities Program, with a focus on climate-resilient infrastructure planning.

Ongoing projects include:

- Airport Security Fence – federal fiscal year (FFY) 2028 (\$27M)
- Trench Drain and Ramp Repaving – FFY2028 (\$9.7M)
- Gate Replacement and Locking Systems – FFY2028 (\$10M)
- Ferry Terminal Improvements – FFY2027 (\$30M)

Kake

In Spring 2024, Director Chris Goins, and Deputy Director Vicky Roberts met with staff and tribal representatives in Kake to assess transportation priorities and strengthen emergency preparedness efforts. Additional engagement continues, including an upcoming multi-agency community meeting on April 14, 2025, and a planning call with Kake Tribal Village held on January 15, 2025.

"Keep Alaska Moving"

Ongoing projects include:

- Ferry Terminal Rehabilitation – FFY2027 (\$8.2M)
- Keku Road Resurfacing (Kake to Seal Point) – FFY2026 (\$8.3M)

Sitka

On April 3, 2025, DOT&PF South Coast Director Chris Goins and Director Craig Tornnga met with Shee Atika representatives regarding federal funding opportunities for the Katlian River Bridge. Further outreach is planned with the Sitka Tribe. A joint community meeting with AML and the USDA Forest Service is also in development.

Ongoing projects include:

- Sitka Seawalk Phase II (FLAP funded) – FFY2025/2026 (\$4.4M)
- Airport Utility Improvements
- Halibut Point Road & Peterson Intersection Safety Improvements – FFY2025 (\$1.5M)

Prince of Wales Island (POW) and Surrounding Communities

DOT&PF's next regional visit to POW, including Kasaan and surrounding communities, is scheduled for May 2025. Director Chris Goins and Deputy Director Vicky Roberts will engage with DOT staff and local officials to assess current needs and priorities.

Ongoing projects include:

- Craig to Klawock Bike and Pedestrian Path – FFY2027 (\$5.1M)
- Craig ADA Improvements – FFY2025/2026 (\$2.8M)
- Big Salt Lake Road Chip Seal (MP 9–20) – FFY2029 (\$5.5M)
- Area-wide Rumble Strip Improvements – FFY2026 (\$1.8M)
- Klawock–Three Mile Creek Improvements – FFY2026 (\$5.6M)
- Klawock Airport Taxiway & Apron Rehab – FFY2027 (\$37M)
- Hydaburg Seaplane Facility Refurbishment – FFY2027 (\$5.6M)
- Hydaburg SPB Rehabilitation – FFY2026 (\$4.7M)
- Neck Lake to Whale Pass Reconstruction – FFY2025 (\$3.5M)

Coordination with Sitka Tribe Regarding Katlian River Bridge and TTP Funding:

Senator Stedman requested that DOT&PF explore the use of Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Bridge funds for the Katlian River Bridge and engage directly with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, specifically Gerry Hope.

While direct coordination with Gerry Hope and the Sitka Tribe has not yet occurred, DOT&PF is open and willing to initiate that conversation. The Katlian River Bridge project was discussed during an in-person meeting between Southcoast Region Director Chris Goins and Shee Atiká representatives in Sitka on April 3, 2025. This conversation included discussion of potential federal funding strategies.

Additionally, DOT&PF continues to coordinate with other tribal entities on the use of TTP funds for infrastructure needs. This includes active discussions with the Ketchikan Indian Community (Richard Harney) and the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Royal Hill) regarding collaborative opportunities for bridge and culvert replacements.

Chair Bjorkman

DOT&PF Response to April 3, Senate Transportation Committee Hearing

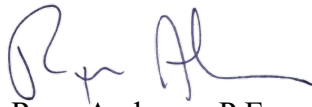
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As part of ongoing regional planning, the department is also beginning the update of the Southcoast Region Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP), which will include broad public engagement across Southeast. Information about this process will be made available at: <https://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/satp/plans.shtml>.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this follow-up. DOT&PF remains committed to working with communities, tribal partners, and the Legislature to advance transportation priorities across Alaska. Please let us know if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Anderson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Anderson P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Andy Mills, Legislative Liaison, Alaska DOT&PF
Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office