



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner

PO Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
Main: 907.465.3900
dot.alaska.gov

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The Honorable James Kaufman
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee

Delivered via email to Senate.Transportation@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Kaufman:

Thank you for the opportunity to present an Aviation and Facility Services overview to the Senate Transportation Committee on February 9, 2023. This letter provides follow-up responses to member questions from that presentation.

Regarding the aviation portion of the presentation, Senator Kiehl asked the department a series of questions about the PFAS (see series of Q/A below).

Q: What quantities of PFAS foam does the state currently possesses?

A: Based on inventory assessments and current fire truck capacities, DOT&PF estimates that approximately 39,295 gallons of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) statewide will require disposal as the State transitions to the new fluorine-free foam (F3).

Q: How much PFAS-free foam the state is planning to purchase.

A: The State will need to purchase approximately the same amount as is being replaced/disposed.

Q: Further comment on plans for disposing PFAS foam.

A: The foam replacement timeline is still uncertain as manufactured quantities will be under high demand nationwide. In addition, the FAA will likely determine a transition timeline by which airport sponsors must meet any new foam requirements. Updated federal guidance is anticipated by 7/1/23.

Continuing with aviation, Senator Tobin asked a question about off-road CDLs and the Deputy Commissioner indicated that he would get back with the committee with some more information about that program, what the department is doing to stand that up, how it has affected retention and recruitment.

Starting in January 2022 DOT&PF partnered with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to explore CDL training and licensure across Alaska. Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP) funding is available to assist with a UAA instructional course offered online to provide basic CDL theory and results

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in a CDL Permit. An instructor is then available to assist CDL permit holders in walking through DMV's testing program for achieving their CDL. In addition, the Department of Labor (DOL) has set up STEP tuition grants that help cover course student course fees, including DOT&PF staff needing a CDL to advance in their career or to even be hired by DOT&PF. To date, a mix of DOT employees and LTAP students have completed the online remote courses. Initial numbers have not been as robust as hoped and connecting the agencies involved can be challenging (DOT&PF, DOL, and UAA). DOT&PF is currently working on ways to streamline the registration process and attract more participants.

And lastly for the aviation portion of the presentation, Senator Myers asked for some follow-up on the point that Aviation has \$4 billion dollars in maintenance requests. At the current rate that the projects are being completed, how long will it take to complete that backlog? How much of that \$4 billion does the division anticipate will have to come from the state?

The \$4B number presented represents all capital needs across the State's aviation system, most of which are federally eligible maintenance work, equipment, and major capital projects. Approximately half of the capital needs are already captured in projects currently on the books and/or programmed for anticipated future funding. DOT&PF typically receives ~\$200M in federal funding annually and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will provide an additional \$50M annually for 5 years. While it will take many years to resolve all airport capital and maintenance needs, DOT&PF works closely with the communities and air carriers to ensure priority needs are addressed in a timely manner and ensure continued air service.

Then moving on to facility services questions, the committee asked what actions/analysis does DFS provide when a lessor is not fulfilling tenant needs or the conditions of the lease are not suitable.

Once an untenable condition is identified in lease space by the leasing section, direct communications with the property owners and managers are initiated. Depending on the severity of the breach of the lease, the Lessor is provided a reasonable period to cure the breach. If the breach continues past a reasonable period, the leasing section would then consult with the AAG and issue an official cure letter notifying the lessor of the breach of lease and ask for a remedy to be provided within 10 days of the letter. Continued breach or a continued failure to act by the lessor would provide the State to take legal remedies available to it under the terms of the lease.

The next question from the committee asked if an agency does not want to renew a lease at the time of renewal and wants to move to another location, how does DFS help facilitate that request.

The Leasing Contracting Officer (CO) reaches out to the various departmental agency's procurement sections approximately 6 to 12 months in advance prior to a lease's expiration date, depending on the size of the lease. This occurs for leases with or without renewal options. The CO will send the agency the projected cost for the renewal period and request funding. If the agency's response is that they want to investigate a move, the CO's will gather additional information as to why the agency does not want to remain in place especially if they have renewal options. CO's then start the process of analyzing the best path to move forward by presenting the agency with factual information gathered. The information presented typically contains a cost analysis that includes projected relocation costs and tenant improvement cost. The CO would then provide a list of potential State-owned facilities that have vacancy along with any current leased space occupied by another agency that may be able to be vacated or

collocated with. The CO would also evaluate and include any current leases that may have additional space available in the building.

The last question from the committee on facility services asked if DFS does any type of cost analysis for renewal of leases or is that up to the exiting agency.

The Leasing CO will provide the agency procurement officer with an estimate of cost to relocate using current lease market rate data and current buildout cost analysis to make sure the agency can fund such a move.

Please let me know if there is anything more the department can provide your office.

Sincerely,

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

Ryan Anderson, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Andy Mills, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF
Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor