

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
March 19, 2009  
5:10 p.m.

[5:10:24 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stedman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senator Charlie Huggins, Vice-Chair  
Senator Donny Olson  
Senator Joe Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Johnny Ellis

ALSO PRESENT

David Levy, Executive Director, Alaska Mobility Coalition;  
Theresa Holt, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;  
Chris Hladick, City Manager, City of Unalaska;  
Shirely Marquardt, City of Unalaska

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Bill Sheffield, Former Governor; Gail Phillips, President, Board of Directors Alaska Aviation Museum; Lynne Woods, Mat-Su Borough; Benjamin Mills, Self; Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief North Star Borough Fire Department, North Pole; Sue Ellen O'Connor, Self, Mat-Su; Orin Seybert, Founder of Peninsula Airways; Patrick Duke, Chairman, Blood Bank of Alaska; Terrance Van Ettinger, Self, Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Michelle Weston, Board of Directors, Alaska Blood Bank; Cindy Schumaker, Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center; Ron Dixon, Chair Tanana Valley Campus Advisory Council, Fairbanks; Jerry Walker, Advisory Council Member, Tanana Valley Campus, Fairbanks; Paul Reichardt, Self, Fairbanks; Mary Greene, Board of Directors, Retirement Community of Fairbanks, Fairbanks; Karen Parr, Chairman, Board of Directors, Retirement Community of Fairbanks; Richard Underkofler, City of Petersburg; Judy Cordell, AWAIC, Anchorage; Steve Hagedorn, Rebounders Booster Club, Anchorage; Steve Nerland, Volunteer UAA, UAA Cite Council, Anchorage; Bobbi Ramos Olson, Self/UAA, Anchorage; David Young, Self/UAA, Anchorage; Jim Olson, self, Anchorage;

Charles Leet, Self, Palmer; Bill Klebesadel, Self, Mat-Su; Kathy Morgan, Tok Area Umbrella Corp., Tok; John Cannon, Alaskans with Disabilities, Mat-Su.

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

#sb75

SENATE BILL NO. 75

"An Act making and amending appropriations, including capital appropriations, supplemental appropriations, and appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date."

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 26th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 26th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<a href="#">5:11:12 PM</a>	DAVID LEVY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION,	Spoke in support for the governor's budget proposal of \$800,000 in General Funds and \$300,000 in Mental Health Trust Funds for coordinated community transportation projects. He is a member of the governor's taskforce on the issue.
<a href="#">5:13:52 PM</a>	Senator Olson	Queried the breakdown of the funding request.
<a href="#">5:13:59 PM</a>	Mr. Levy	Replied \$800,000 in General Funds and \$300,000 in Mental Health Trust Funds.
<a href="#">5:14:08 PM</a>	THERESA HOLT, GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION,	Spoke in support for the governor's budget proposal of \$800,000 in General Funds and \$300,000 in Mental Health Trust Funds for coordinated community transportation projects. She specifically cited disabled and low income Alaskans. She shared that transportation can be a major barrier in the independence of disabled Alaskans.
<a href="#">5:16:44 PM</a>	CHRIS HLADICK, CITY MANAGER, CITY OF UNALASKA,	Spoke in support of the city's Power House Project and made a request for the purchase of a new 4.4 mega watt diesel generator. His request is for \$5 million dollars. His second project funding request was for the Ballyhoo Road Project, which had its funding

		cut. He also spoke in support of a bridge project.
<a href="#">5:17:41 PM</a>	SHIRELY MARQUARDT, CITY OF UNALASKA,	Spoke support of the city's request for infrastructure funding. Co-Chair Stedman wondered if the Ballyhoo project was already on the STIP.
<a href="#">5:20:07 PM</a>	Mr. Hladick	Clarified that he was speaking of the Ballyhoo road, which was not on the STIP.
<a href="#">5:21:50 PM</a>	BILL SHEFFIELD, FORMER GOVERNOR	Spoke in support of the Port of Anchorage's project request to remodel and add to the port. The project would be funded: 50 percent federal, 25 percent state, and 25 percent municipal revenue. He stressed that the project needs \$20 million for six years.
<a href="#">5:25:26 PM</a>	Co-Chair Stedman	Replied that the committee would do what it could to help.
<a href="#">5:25:55 PM</a>	GAIL PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALASKA AVIATION MUSEUM	Spoke in support for the request for funds for the Alaskan Aviation Museum. The funds would be used for energy and safety improvements.
<a href="#">5:26:57 PM</a>	LYNNE WOODS, MAT-SU BOROUGH	Spoke in support for the match of state funds for road bonds. She felt the funding would help to alleviate congestion and improve road safety. The request is for \$35 million.
<a href="#">5:28:31 PM</a>	Co-Chair Stedman	Shared that discussion to move the projects forward are ongoing. He wondered if the community had issued the bonds already.
<a href="#">5:29:11 PM</a>	Ms. Woods	Replied that the bonds will be issued when the state match is secured. Preliminary work has been done in anticipation of a state match. She thanked Senator Huggins for his support in the matter.
<a href="#">5:29:56 PM</a>	BENJAMIN MILLS, SELF	Spoke in support of repairing bridges on the new and old Glenn Highways. He expressed concern with the condition of bridges in his area and the possibility of flooding in his village. He spoke of a letter he sent to Senator Huggins addressing the matter.
<a href="#">5:31:58 PM</a>	Senator Huggins	Assured Mr. Mills that there is a town hall meeting scheduled in the Anchorage/Chugiak area to discuss the matter. He said he would provide any necessary information Mr. Mills may need concerning the meeting.

<a href="#">5:33:25 PM</a>	JEFF TUCKER, FIRE CHIEF NORTH STAR BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, NORTH POLE	Spoke in support for capital funding to replace a 30 year old fire engine for the North Star Fire Department.
<a href="#">5:34:24 PM</a>	SUE ELLEN O'CONNOR, SELF, MAT-SU	Expressed support for the governor's request for coordinated community transportation funds of \$300,000 Mental Health Trust Funds and \$800,000 General Funds. She is a blind woman who uses public transportation to get to work.
<a href="#">5:35:03 PM</a>	ORIN SEYBERT, FOUNDER OF PENINSULA AIRWAYS	Spoke in support of capital funds for improvements in the Alaska Aviation Museum. He stated that the money is needed to improve the energy efficiency of the museum building. He stated that museum attendance is up to 20,000 people per year. He felt that the museum contributes greatly to the state and needs to be preserved.
<a href="#">5:39:44 PM</a>	PATRICK DUKE, CHAIRMAN, BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA	Spoke in support for the capital campaign to build a new blood bank building. He stated that the board has committed \$300,000 of its own funding toward the building. He shared that the bank serves the entire medical community of the state. He shared that collected blood must be sent to Washington State for testing before it can be used here in Alaska. This slows the ability to provide blood in a timely manner. An in-state testing facility is necessary.
<a href="#">5:43:06 PM</a>	TERRANCE VAN ETTINGER, SELF, ALASKA CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED	Expressed support for the governor's request for coordinated community transportation funds of \$300,000 from the Mental Health Trust and \$800,000 in general funds. He stated that he relied on People Mover and public transportation to get to work. He stressed that the need for solid public transportation is necessary.
<a href="#">5:45:19 PM</a>	MICHELLE WESTON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALASKA BLOOD BANK	Urged support for blood bank facility expansion. She expressed the need for blood to be readily available in-state. She plans to personally raise \$5,000 for the project.
<a href="#">5:47:25 PM</a>	CINDY SCHUMAKER, MORRIS THOMPSON CULTURAL AND	Urged support for \$1 million in funding from the General Fund or Crew Ship Impact Funds for the completion of exhibits within the facility. The plan had been to fund the exhibits with

	VISITORS CENTER	private funds but economic times have proven to make that impossible.
<a href="#">5:49:54 PM</a>	RON DIXON, CHAIR TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS ADVISORY COUNCIL, FAIRBANKS	Urged support for \$5 million capital request for funding for the UAF Tanana Valley Campus Center Space Revitalization Phase 4.
<a href="#">5:51:16 PM</a>	JERRY WALKER, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER, TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in favor of funding for the renovation of the Tanana Valley Campus Downtown Center.
<a href="#">5:52:55 PM</a>	PAUL REICHARDT, SELF, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of the Raven Landing Retirement Community Center Project. Urged support for the construction of a senior center with the use of \$1.8 million in capital funds.
<a href="#">5:54:47 PM</a>	MARY GREENE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OF FAIRBANKS, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in favor of the use of \$1.8 million in capital funding for the Raven Landing Senior Community Center.
<a href="#">5:56:41 PM</a>	KAREN PARR, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OF FAIRBANKS	Spoke in favor of \$1.8 million in capital funds to build the Raven Landing Community Center. She shared that the current community senior center in Fairbanks is limited and needs to be improved to support the growing senior population.
<a href="#">5:59:07 PM</a>	RICHARD UNDERKOFLE, CITY OF PETERSBURG	Spoke in favor of funding the Department of Transportation 50/50 Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program. He felt that the state should be matching city dollars in coastal community for city-owned harbor maintenance.
<a href="#">6:01:01 PM</a>	Co-Chair Stedman	Stated that there is \$13 million on the match list for those harbor projects in coastal Alaska.
<a href="#">6:01:57 PM</a>	JUDY CORDELL, AWAIC, ANCHORAGE	Spoke in favor for more funding for facilities for victims of domestic violence. She claimed that her shelter is currently short 25 beds and has been operating over capacity for the last two years. \$920,000 is required for capital repairs to the building in order to provide the services needed by its clients.
<a href="#">6:04:23 PM</a>	STEVE	Spoke in support for more funding to be

	HAGEDORN, REBOUNDERS BOOSTER CLUB, ANCHORAGE	used for the maintenance of UAA sporting facilities on campus. He stressed that the facilities are falling apart and need the funding of \$65 million for repairs.
<a href="#">6:06:24 PM</a>	STEVE NERLAND, VOLUNTEER UAA, UAA CITE COUNCIL, ANCHORAGE	Spoke in favor for funding the UAA arena. He said that the UAA facilities are inadequate in supporting the growing sport needs. He asked the committee to consider the \$65 million request.
<a href="#">6:08:30 PM</a>	BOBBI RAMOS OLSON, SELF/UAA, ANCHORAGE	Voiced support for the request of \$65 million to build the new facility at UAA. She felt that the building would attract out-of-state residents to Alaska.
<a href="#">6:11:27 PM</a>	DAVID YOUNG, SELF/UAA, ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of UAA facilities. He emphasized that the costs for the project would rise.
<a href="#">6:13:08 PM</a>	JIM OLSON, SELF, ANCHORAGE	Spoke in support of UAA sports facilities. He was concerned Anchorage would lose people.
<a href="#">6:14:37 PM</a>	CHARLES LEET, SELF, PALMER	Encouraged votes for bond issue in the Mat-Su valley and for \$2 million for Trunk Road repair. He felt that this was an important issue for safety.
<a href="#">6:16:27 PM</a>	Co-Chair Stedman	Named several proposed projects for the area. He mentioned that Senator Huggins has informed the committee of the importance of funding the projects.
<a href="#">6:16:47 PM</a>	BILL KLEBESADEL, SELF, MAT-SU	Encouraged support Road bond package for Mat-Su Borough for road upgrade and repair.
<a href="#">6:18:22 PM</a>	KATHY MORGAN, TOK AREA UMBRELLA CORP., TOK	Spoke in support of Capital improvements for Tok to protect city from wildfires and boost local economy. \$86,000 to remove buildings related to firefighting. Wood pellet stoves and wood chip boiler to save heating costs (testimony copy on file).
<a href="#">6:22:14 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">6:26:32 PM</a>	RECONVENED	
<a href="#">6:26:41 PM</a>	JOHN CANNON, ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES, MAT-SU	Spoke in favor for funding for coordinated community transportation. Expressed support for the governor's request for community transportation funds of \$300,000 and \$800,000 general funds. He felt that the high unemployment rates among the disabled in the state is largely due to lack of reliable transportation. He thought

		that the problem needed to be looked at more diligently.
<a href="#">6:29:44 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">6:34:13 PM</a>	RECONVEVED	
<a href="#">6:34:22 PM</a> # <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>  The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.		
<a href="#">6:35:51 PM</a>		