

HB

432

HOUSE BILL NO. 432

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SALMON, Foster

Introduced: 2/8/06

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act expanding the Alaska marine highway system to Yukon River locations."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 19.65.011 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 19.65.011. Comprehensive long-range plan. The Department of
5 Transportation and Public Facilities shall prepare a comprehensive long-range plan for
6 the development and improvement of the Alaska marine highway system, including a
7 study on the feasibility of expanding to Yukon River locations, and shall revise and
8 update the plan at least every five years. The department shall submit the
9 comprehensive long-range plan and revisions and updates of the plan to the
10 legislature.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 19.65.030(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) The department shall ~~construct, purchase, or lease~~ ^{may} ferry terminal facilities
13 at locations, including communities along the Yukon River, if ^{The largest R in the state} selects for the
14 loading and unloading of passengers and vehicles under their own power, on and off
15 ferries. The department shall repair and maintain these facilities. Construction and

of ferries ?

good language

1 purchasing under this subsection are governed by AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code).

2 * Sec. 3. AS 19.65.050(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The legislature finds that

4 (1) the Alaska marine highway system is an essential part of the state
5 transportation system, and that it warrants continued and predictable state support;

6 (2) many communities' economies are dependent on a steady and
7 stable marine highway system service level;

8 (3) many communities along the Yukon River will greatly benefit
9 from regular marine highway transportation service for passengers and freight;

10 (4) [(3)] the state's tourism industry is greatly enhanced by a
11 dependable marine highway transportation network; and

12 (5) [(4)] efficient and prudent management of the system will benefit
13 the state's economy and foster economic development.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB432-DOT-2604-03-21-06
 Bill Version: HB 432
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 1/06/06

Dept. Affected: DOT&PF

Title: Yukon River Ferry Service

RDU: Marine Highway System

Component: Marine Vessel Operations

Sponsor: Rep. Salmon

Requester: (H)Transportation

Component No. 2604

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	250.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 CF Match						
1004 GF	250.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0					
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Department will contract for a study to determine the feasibility of providing ferry service to communities on the Yukon River.

Prepared by: Mary Siroky
 Division: Commissioner's Office, DOT&PF
 Approved by: Mike Barton
 Agency: Commissioner, DOT&PF

Phone 465-4772
 Date/Time 3/21/06 10:45 AM
 Date 3/21/2006

City of Tanana
P. O. Box 249
Tanana, Ak 99777
(907) 366-7159

received
FEB 28 2006

Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol – Room 114
Juneau, Ak 99801

16 February 2006

Dear Mr. Salmon,

Greetings from the Interior of Alaska. On the 9th of February 2006 the City Council of Tanana unanimously passed a resolution of support for the State of Alaska House Bill # 432 to study the feasibility of expanding the Alaska Marine Highway system to the Yukon River Communities.

Tanana, being a traditional hub community of where the two main navigable river systems meet. We could one day become the main staging/port for most all the freight shipped up or down the mighty Yukon River. This could be made possible if 16 miles of new road was constructed on the south side of the Yukon River utilizing the Minto and Manley Hot Springs road. The new road would be an extension of the existing highway and mining roads. If a main port was developed on the Yukon River, the shipping vessels could draft 6' to 8' feet instead of 3 ½ to 4' feet. This would mean that the cost per pound would drop by more than half.

Studying the feasibility of expanding Marine Highway System into the Interior of Alaska will provide a look at alternatives to our transportation needs. Also, for the State of Alaska to look at the Natural Resources we have that would contribute to the State's over all economy. We have great mining potential, substantial renewable timber resources, some fishing resources, undeveloped tourist potential, young labor work force just to name a few.

In closing, we strongly support this House Bill #432 for the economic future of Rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

Donna May Folger
Donna Folger
Mayor



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
REPRESENTATIVE WOODIE SALMON

Memorandum

Date: February 15, 2006

To: Representative Jim Elkins
Co-Chair, Transportation Committee

Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Representative Woodie Salmon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Salmon", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Re: Hearing Request

I respectfully request you to schedule a hearing for HB 432, "An Act expanding the Alaska marine highway system to Yukon River locations".

HB 432 requires the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to begin studying the feasibility of a state ferry system on the Yukon River.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 465-4527.

Thank you,

Representative Woodie Salmon



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
REPRESENTATIVE WOODIE SALMON

HB 432: SPONSOR STATEMENT

“An Act expanding the Alaska marine highway system to Yukon River Locations.”

HB 432 requires the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to begin studying the feasibility of a state ferry system on the Yukon River.

Alaskan communities along the Yukon River would benefit greatly from a seasonal ferry service for transporting passengers, vehicles and cargo. A ferry service with a regular schedule would provide an economic boost to villages by providing tourists with a convenient means of traveling through the area. The new jobs created would also help the economy and directly benefit the communities. In addition, a ferry system would be a reliable and safe alternative to traveling the river independently in smaller boats, and provide a greater sense of connectedness and community among villages.

Currently, summertime barge service up and down the Yukon River is slow and infrequent. Many communities will only experience one or two barge deliveries per year. With a regular ferry service, local residents of Yukon River villages would have another option for shipment of groceries and supplies, which could help lower prices.

A century ago, the Yukon River was a primary route of transportation linking interior communities during the gold rush era. A revitalization of this waterway would surely provide immediate benefits to locals, and encourage growth of tourism and a stronger economy for future generations of Alaskans. A feasibility study is a positive first step in this process. I respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EAGLE
EAGLE VILLAGE IRA COUNCIL
P. O. BOX 19
EAGLE, ALASKA 99738

PHONE NO. (907) 547-2271
FAX NO. (907) 547-2287

received
FEB 14 2006

February 9, 2006

Representative Woodie Salmon
Alaska State House of Representatives
(Interdepartmental Mail Stop: 3100)
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: HB-432

Dear Representative Salmon:

I am writing in reference to HB-432, "Expanding the Alaska Marine Highway System to the Yukon River locations". After reviewing the content of bill, the Eagle Village Council wholeheartedly support HB-432. I would like to thank you and Representative Foster for introducing HB-432. If we are to preserve the past, this is one way of revitalizing the links that the interior communities had with one and another during the hay-day of the Gold rush era. If HB-432 is passed in both houses, it will also open up more access to rich undeveloped resources. This will be good for the village economy.

One of the most important criteria of HB-432 is that it will be good for the economy by producing more jobs in the local communities. This is also good because at a time when there is almost a standstill on the developing of our local resources, it would make it possible to ship these resources anywhere in the world. I believe that for many of our communities to survive and become self-sustaining, the opening of a major waterway is an encouraging step. It is also good for the economy, as it will put the emphasis of putting people back to work, other than dependence on welfare-oriented services.

In closing, I would like to say that this is a good bill and it will make more communities self-sustaining. I urge the members of both houses to support and pass this bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 907-547-2271.

Sincerely,

Isaac A. Juneby

Isaac A. Juneby, Chief
Eagle Village IRA Council

C/C

Representative Richard Foster
Alaska State House of Representatives
(Interdepartmental Mail Stop: 3100)
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
REPRESENTATIVE WOODIE SALMON

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

HB 432: Expanding Alaska Marine Highway to Yukon River

Section One includes a study on the feasibility of expanding the Alaska marine highway system to Yukon River as part of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities comprehensive long-range plan.

Section Two adds communities along the Yukon River to locations where the department shall construct, purchase or lease ferry terminal facilities.

Section Three inserts a new statement into findings: many communities along the Yukon River will greatly benefit from regular marine highway transportation service for passengers and freight.

3/20/06

TO: Representative Salmon

From: Mike Tierney

About: HB 432

I recently received a copy of your "HB 432 - Yukon River Ferry" proposal. Sounds very good, with + possibilities for us on Kuskokwim too. suggest you write local village council and city govt to ask for letters of support.

Thanks

W. McIntire

McGrath Native Village Council

Box 134

McGrath 99627

City of McGrath

Box 30

McGrath

Maridon Boario

From: POMS@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 8:39 AM
To: Maridon Boario
Subject: New Pom:HB 432 Yukon River Ferry Service

Robert Kallio
Po Box 73731

Fairbanks 99707-3731,

As a past captain of the only tour boat that operated from the Yukon River bridge, I wish to support this bill. Ferry service on the Yukon River would benefit all the villages & develop tourism. It is time to develop this ferry system to open the Interior of Alaska.