

**SB**

**59**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

State Capitol, Rm 516  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3873 Phone  
(907) 465-3922 Fax  
(877) 463-3873 Toll Free  
Senator\_Bert\_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us



## INTERIM

50 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6442  
Phone (907) 225-8088  
Fax (907) 225-0713

**SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN**

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair  
House Transportation Committee

From: Senator Bert Stedman *Bert K. Stedman*

Date: April 13, 2009

Subject: Request for Hearing

I respectfully request that Senate Bill 59, "An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles", be scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee at your earliest convenience.

Attached is the following documentation:

- Sponsor Statement
- CS for Senate Bill 59 (TRA) am.
- Fiscal Note – Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Fiscal Note – Department of Public Safety
- Fiscal Note – Division of Motor Vehicles
- General Background Information on Electric Cars
- Southeast Alaska Speed Limit Mileage Data & Maps
- Letters of Support for SB 59

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact me or my aide Weston Eiler. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

DISTRICT A

Ketchikan • Sitka • Petersburg • Wrangell

Pelican • Elfin Cove • Port Alexander • Saxman • Meyers Chuck • Thorne Bay • Coffman Cove • Hollis



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Peggy Wilson

House District 2.

Putting Alaska's Families First

## FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Leg Legal FAX# 2029

DATE: 4/14/09 FROM: Becky Rooney x 3739

SUBJECT: Final of 26 CS0280\N

Total Pages (including cover sheet) 1

Amendment 1 to CS Ver N:

pg 1 line 13 Insert "and" after the semicolon

Amendment 2 Ver N:

pg 2 line 1 Insert "or" after semicolon

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26-LS0280\N  
Luckhaupt  
4/14/09

**HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 59( )**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR STEDMAN**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles."**

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

3 **\* Section 1.** AS 28.35.261(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The operator of a low-speed vehicle may not operate that vehicle on a  
5 highway that has a maximum speed limit of more than 35 miles an hour.  
6 Notwithstanding this subsection, the operator of a low-speed vehicle may operate  
7 that vehicle

8 (1) on a highway with a maximum speed limit of 45 miles an hour  
9 if the highway is

10 (A) within a municipality that

11 (i) has a population of less than 35,000;

12 (ii) is not connected by road to Anchorage or  
13 Fairbanks; and

14 (iii) has passed an ordinance allowing for the  
15 operation of low-speed vehicles as provided for in this

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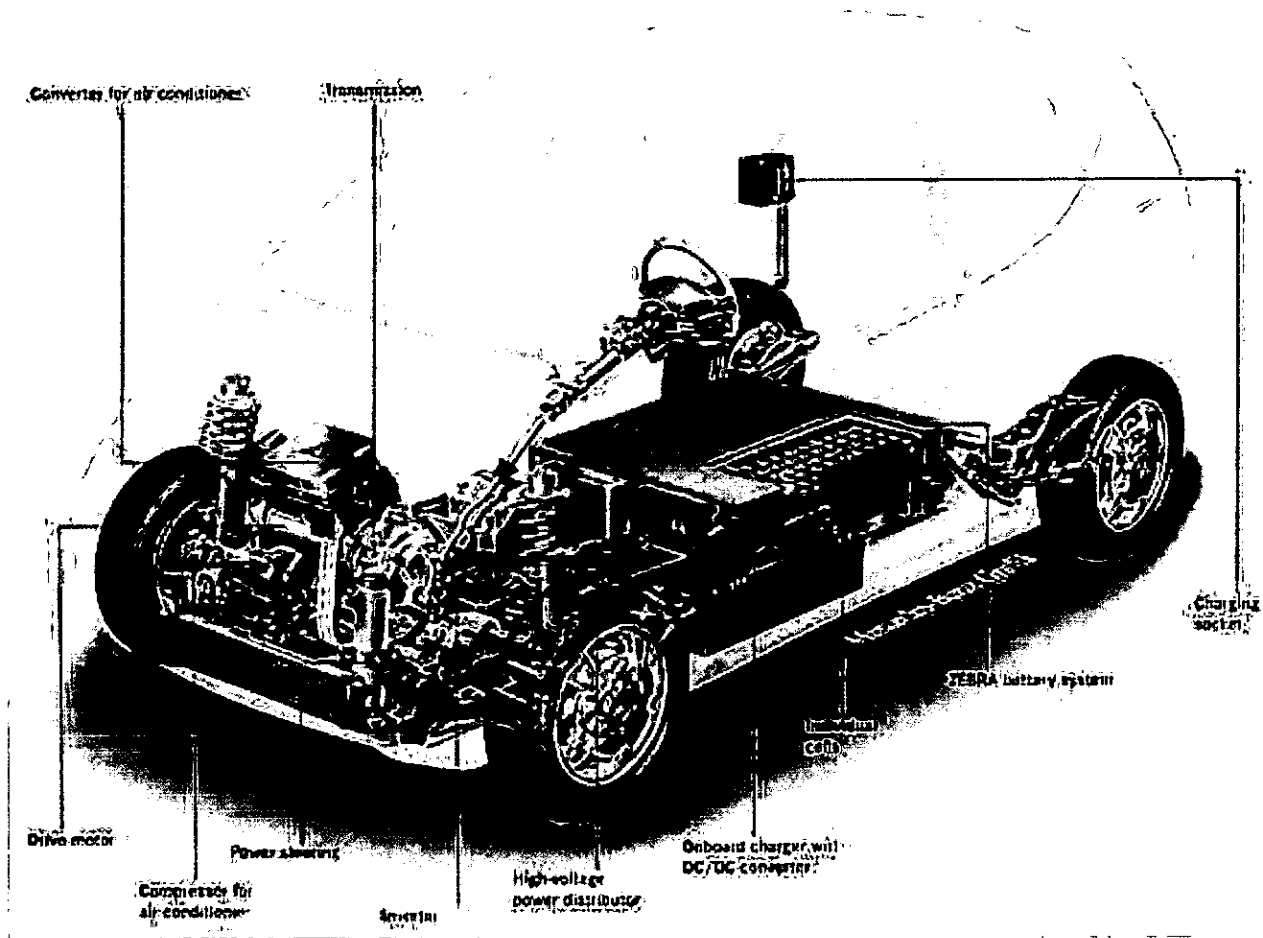
subparagraph, *or*

(B) within an area of the unorganized borough, outside of a city, that is not connected by road to Anchorage or Fairbanks;

(2) across an intersection with [CROSS] a highway that has a maximum speed limit greater than is permissible [OF MORE THAN 35 MILES AN HOUR IF THE CROSSING IS MADE AT THE INTERSECTION WITH A HIGHWAY THAT IS AUTHORIZED] for low-speed vehicles under this subsection.

## Electric Cars You Can Drive

Electric cars and its hybrid technology is a burgeoning market, and the chance for America to become energy-independent is on everyone's minds as of late. No one wants to be paying for gasoline, when an 8-hour charge can get them much, much more for their time and money. When you read about these vehicles, keep in mind that this technology is new, but it's reliable.



### Electric Cars Available in 2008

- Tesla Roadster Electric Car
- GEM Electric Car
- Dynasty iT Sedan Electric Car
- ZENN Electric Car
- Zap Xebra Electric Car
- Aptera Type-1

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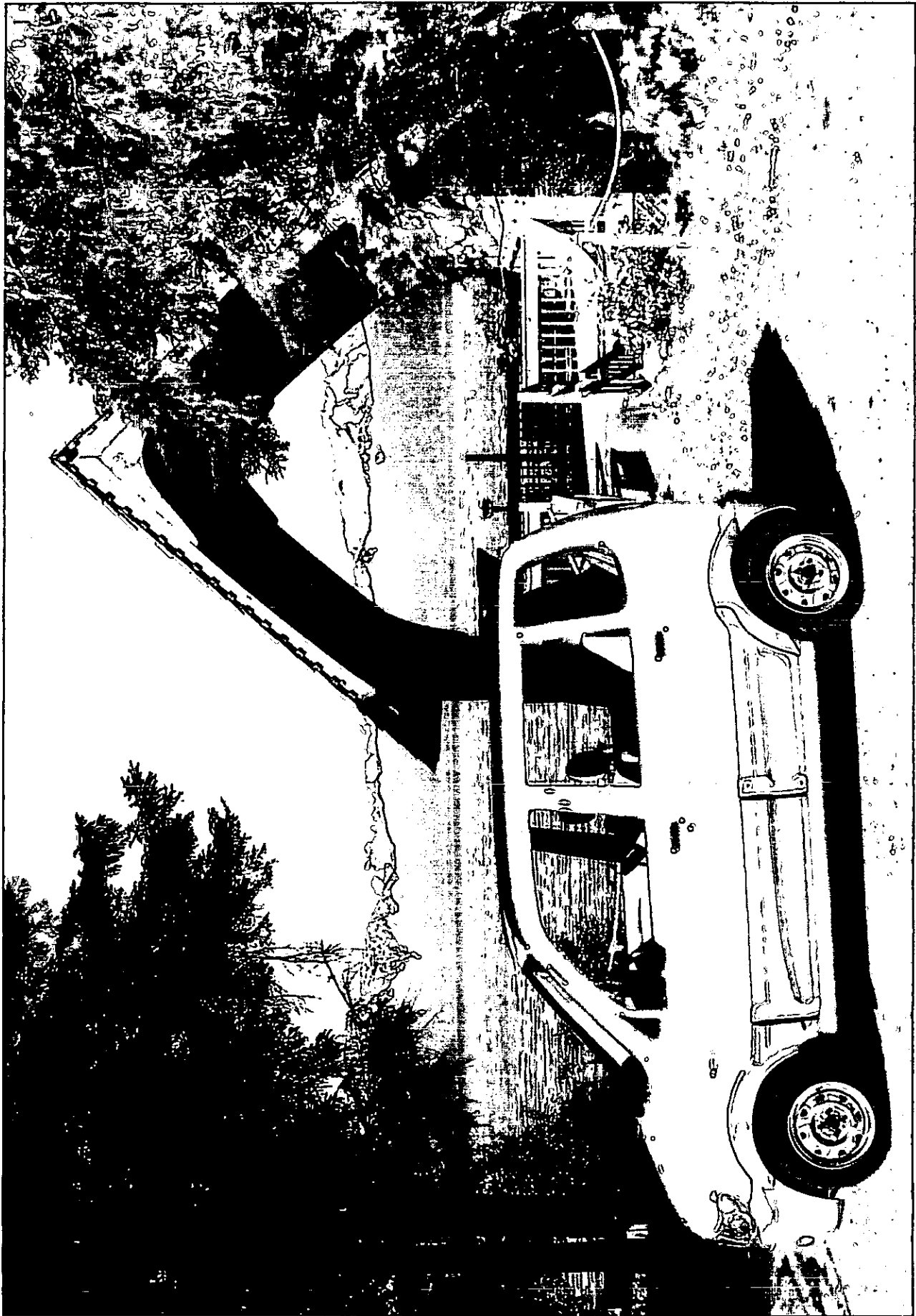
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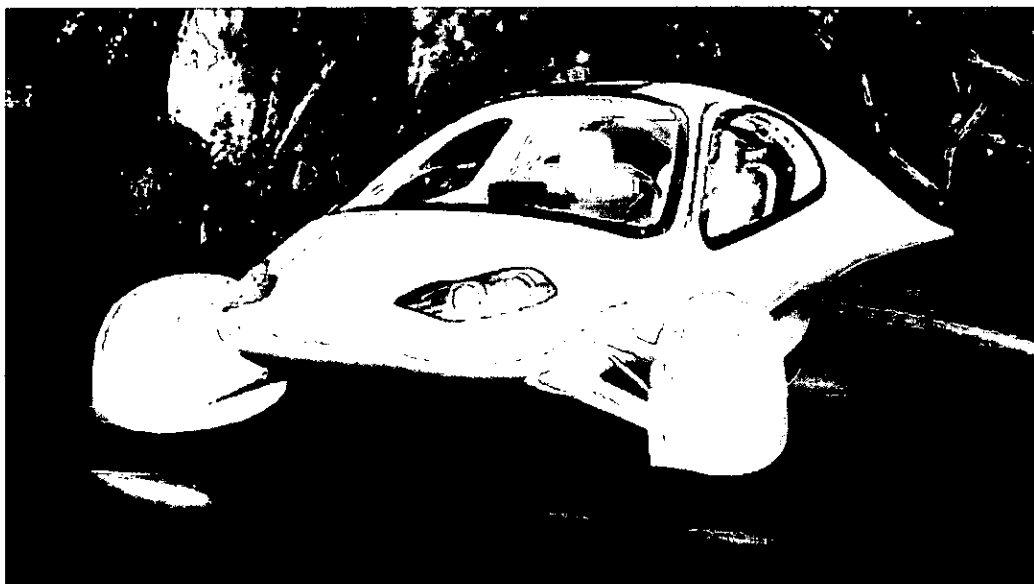


Miles EV ZX-40 ~ Retail: \$14,750

## **Aptera Type-1**

Google has finally decided to weigh in on the whole “eco-friendly automobile movement” by pouring \$2.75M into Aptera Motors, the makers of their Type-1 vehicle, which holds a price tag of \$30,000, gets 230+ MPG, and looks like something that came out of The Jetsons.

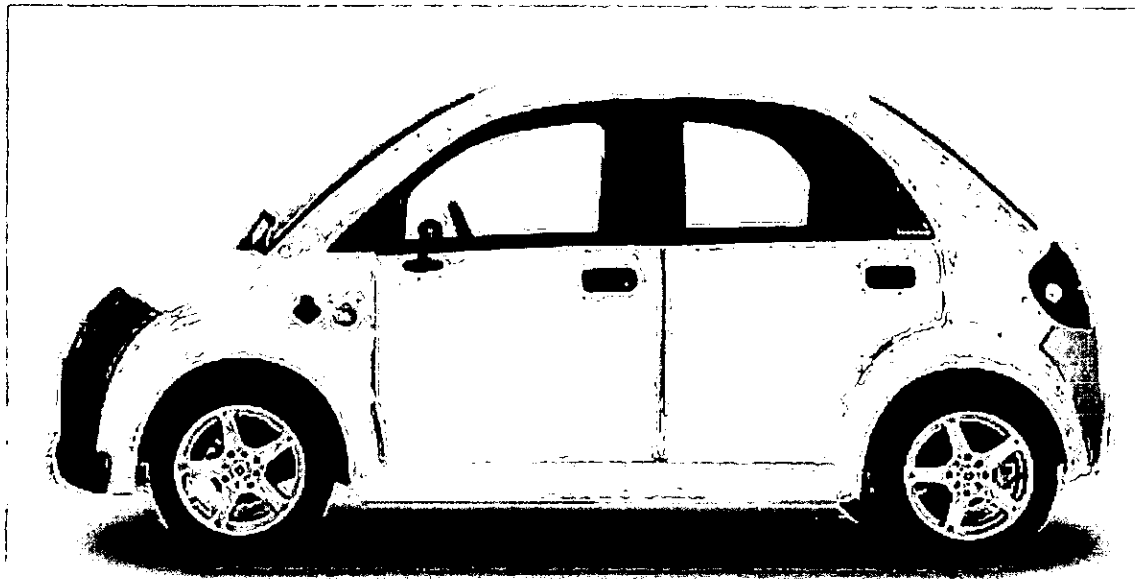
While it may not be an amazingly large amount of money, Aptera hopes that it will bring their Type-1 vehicle (seen below) to Market fairly soon – and we all hope that too. We can't help but wonder if anyone is yet thinking about how this could change the auto transport industry.



## **Dynasty iT Sedan**

The Dynasty iT Sedan is manufactured by Dynasty Electric Car Corp., originally located in Canada. It was recently acquired by a Pakistani automobile company, and now is in the process of moving all the manufacturing facilities to Pakistan.

They only have a few cars available in the US, and they sell for roughly \$20,000 (and for a six hour charge you'll get a range of 30 miles).



## **GEM Car**

This Chrysler-built, golf-cart-like electric car is much more affordable than the Tesla Roadster, with a price point of around \$10,000. However, you get what you pay for.

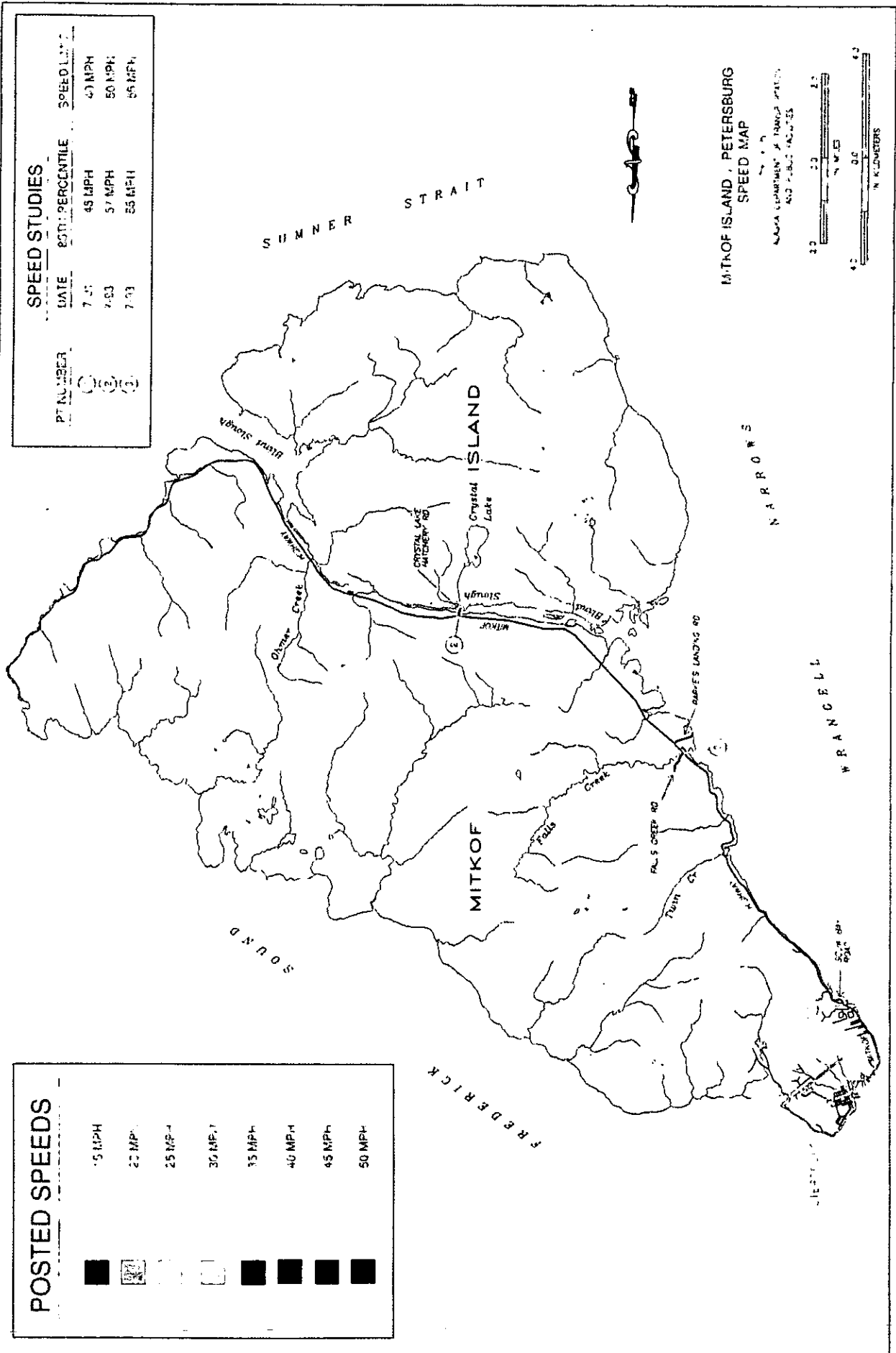
While this is a great around-town vehicle it won't be giving you any major mileage any time soon. It has a range of 30-40 miles on an 8 hour charge, and its total top speed is 25 mph.

This is a great vehicle for everyday errands, and its different versions offer seating for up to six and either a flat-bed or a trunk.



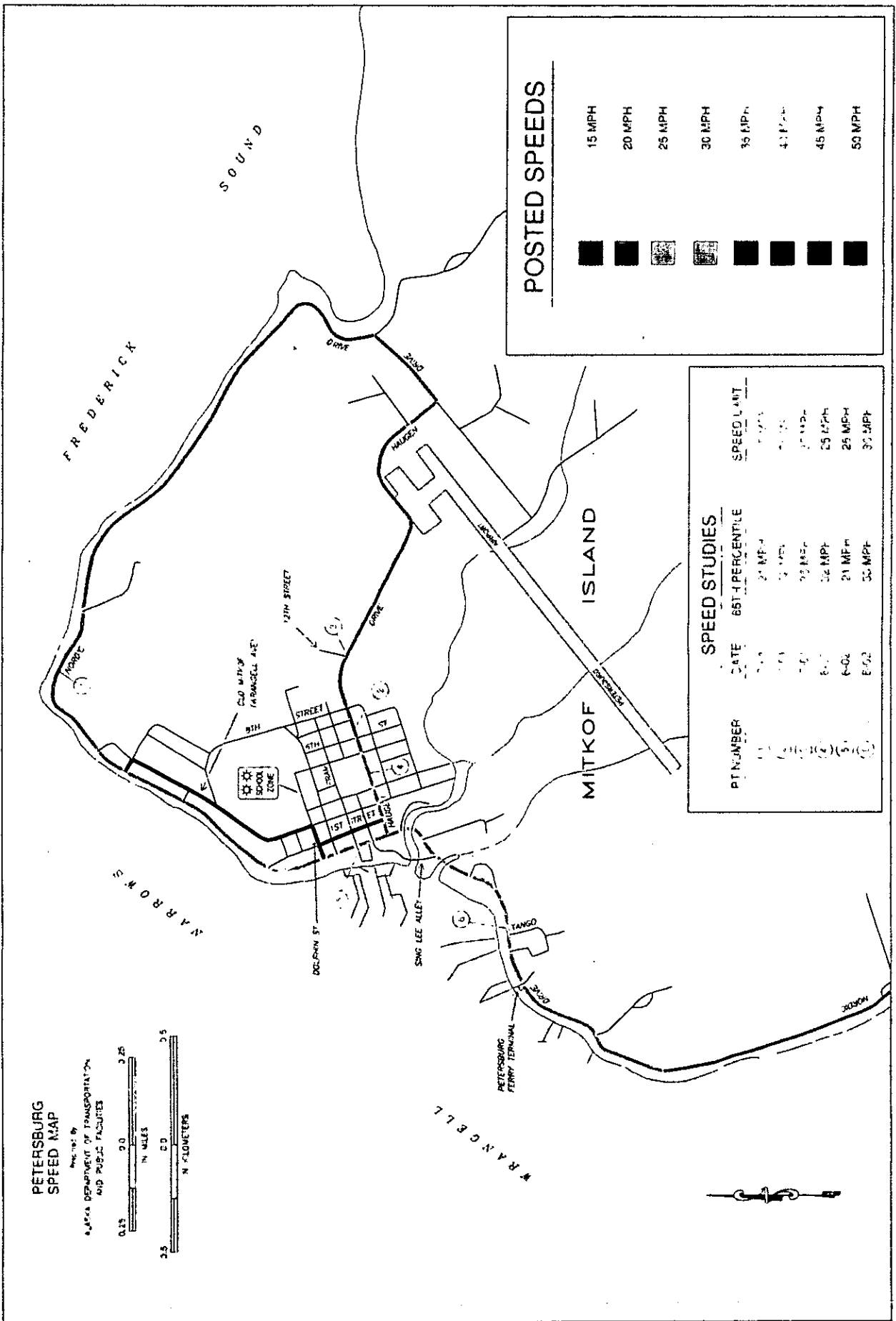
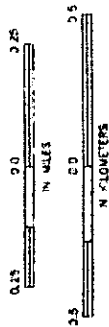
**Southeast Alaska Community Speed Limits (estimated length of road for each speed limit)**

Location	Total Miles	15mph	20mph	25mph	30mph	35mph	40mph	45mph	50mph	55mph	total state miles	% miles state
Sitka	49.431	0.3	0.21	4.15	0.9	3.1	4.6	3	0	0	16.26	32.89%
Peterburg	72.068	0	1.465	0.84	3.78	3.404	0.05	0	29	0	38.539	53.48%
Wrangell	53.79	0	0.09	0.225	0	1.414	2.78	8	4.25	0	16.759	31.16%
Ketchikan	93.732	0	11.962	8.5	2.236	5.75	4	10.5	8	3.5	54.448	58.09%



**PETERSBURG  
SPEED MAP**

Prepared by  
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

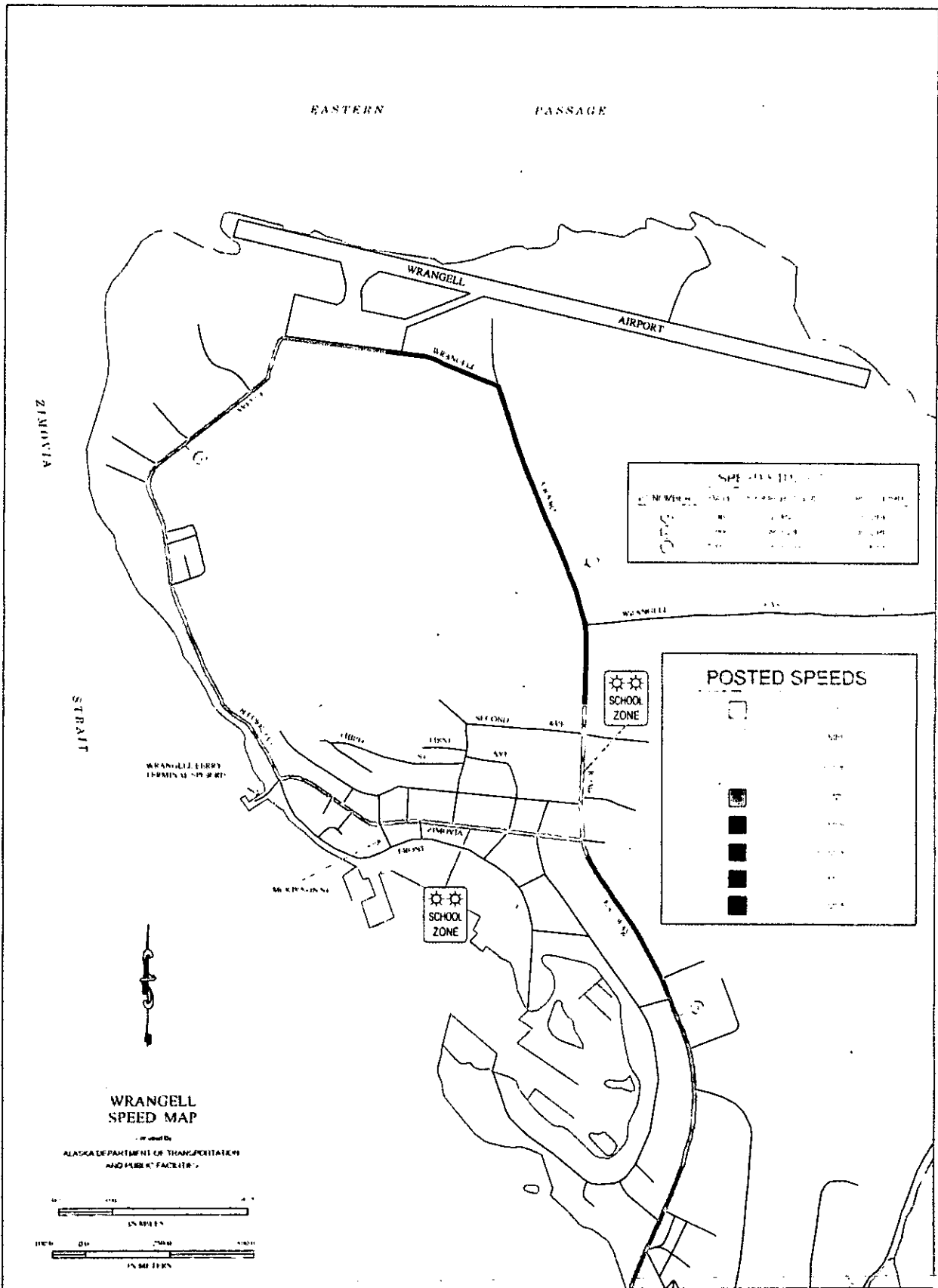


**POSTED SPEEDS**

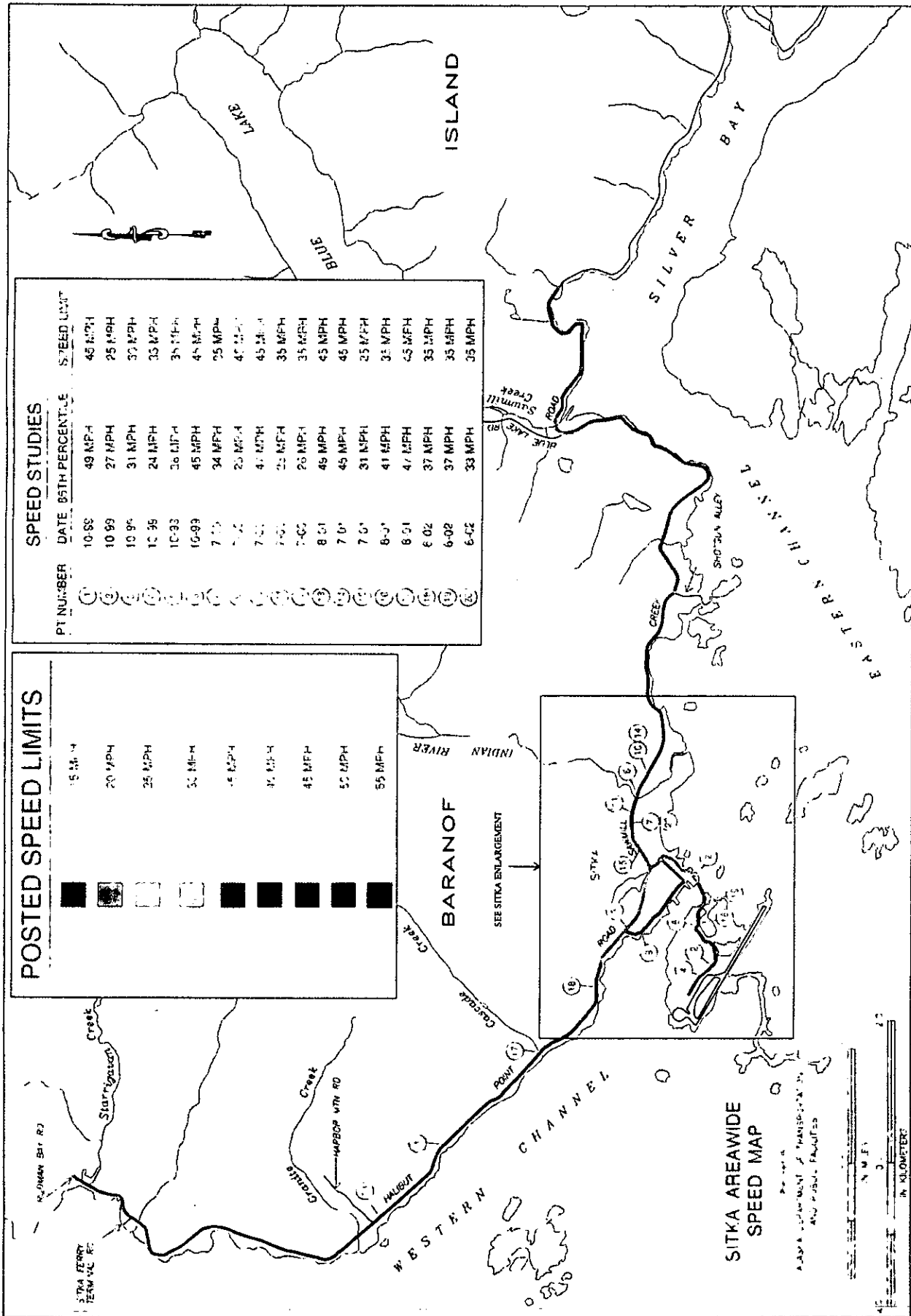
15 MPH	20 MPH	25 MPH	30 MPH	35 MPH	40 MPH	45 MPH	50 MPH
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**SPEED STUDIES**

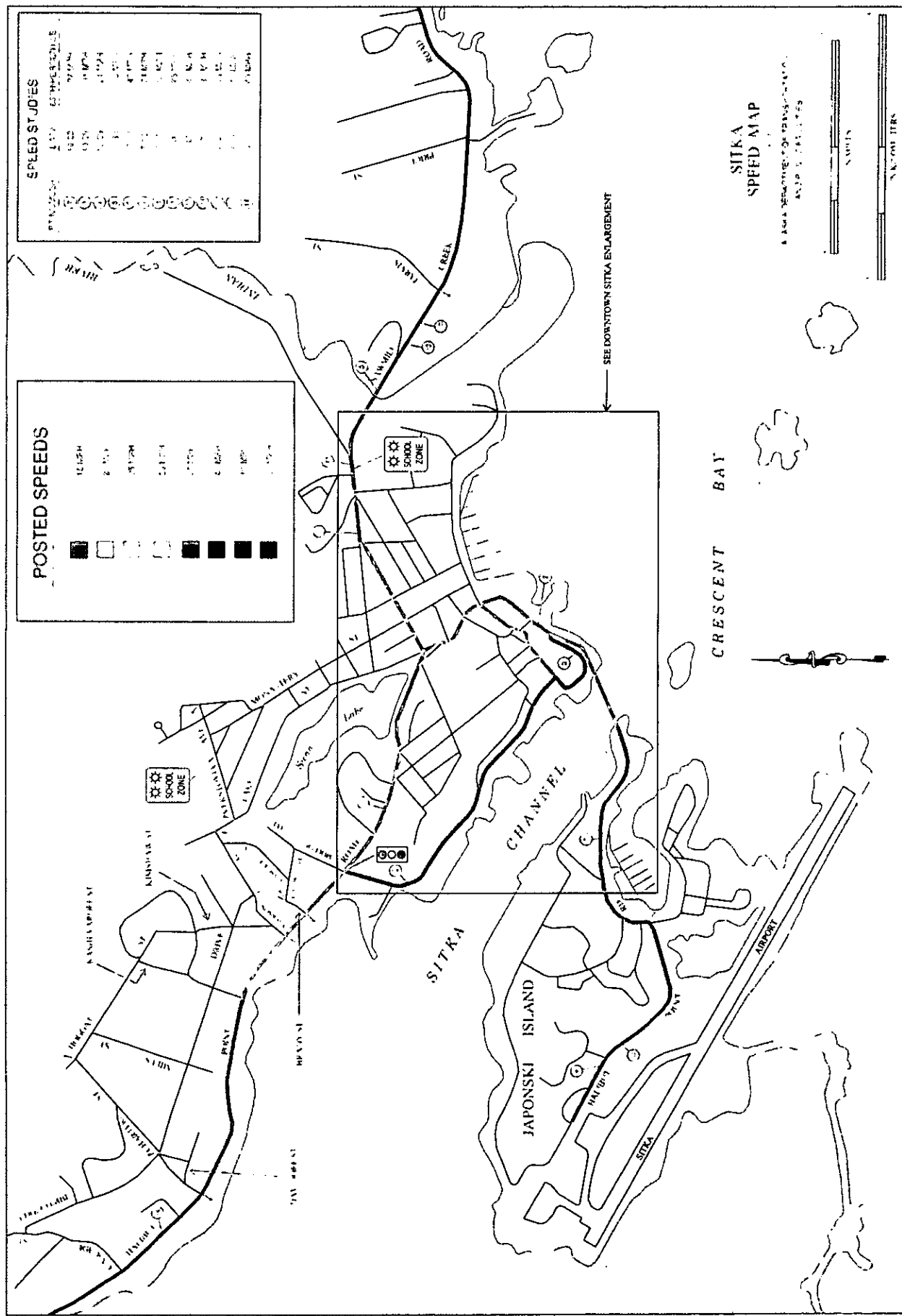
PT NUMBER	DATE	85TH PERCENTILE	SPEED LIMIT
1	7-11	21 MPH	25 MPH
2	7-11	21 MPH	25 MPH
3	7-11	21 MPH	25 MPH
4	8-11	21 MPH	25 MPH
5	8-02	21 MPH	25 MPH
6	8-02	35 MPH	30 MPH



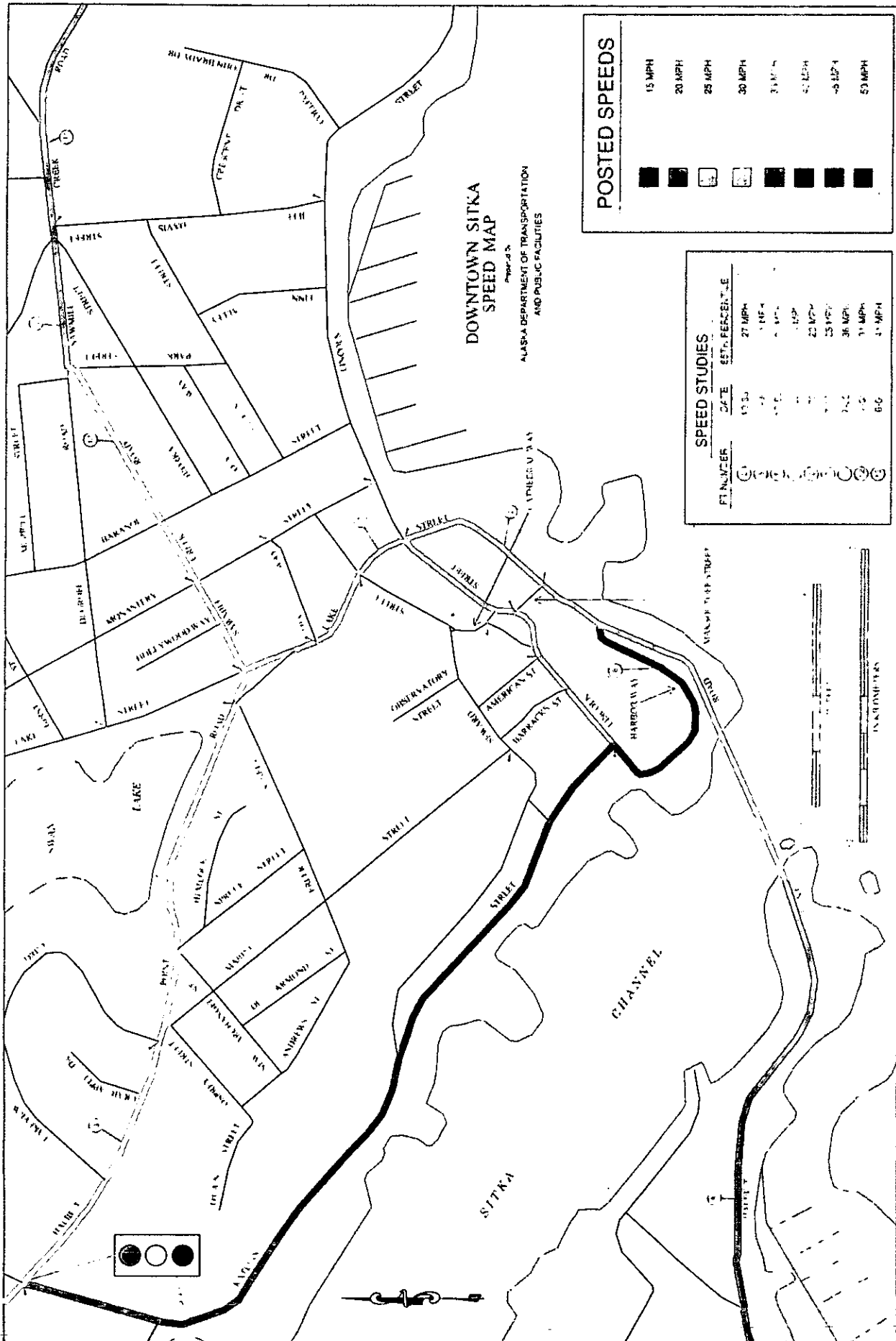




FILED SURV. AND CHECKS 2002 POSTED SPEED LIMITS (SIT1.DWG)

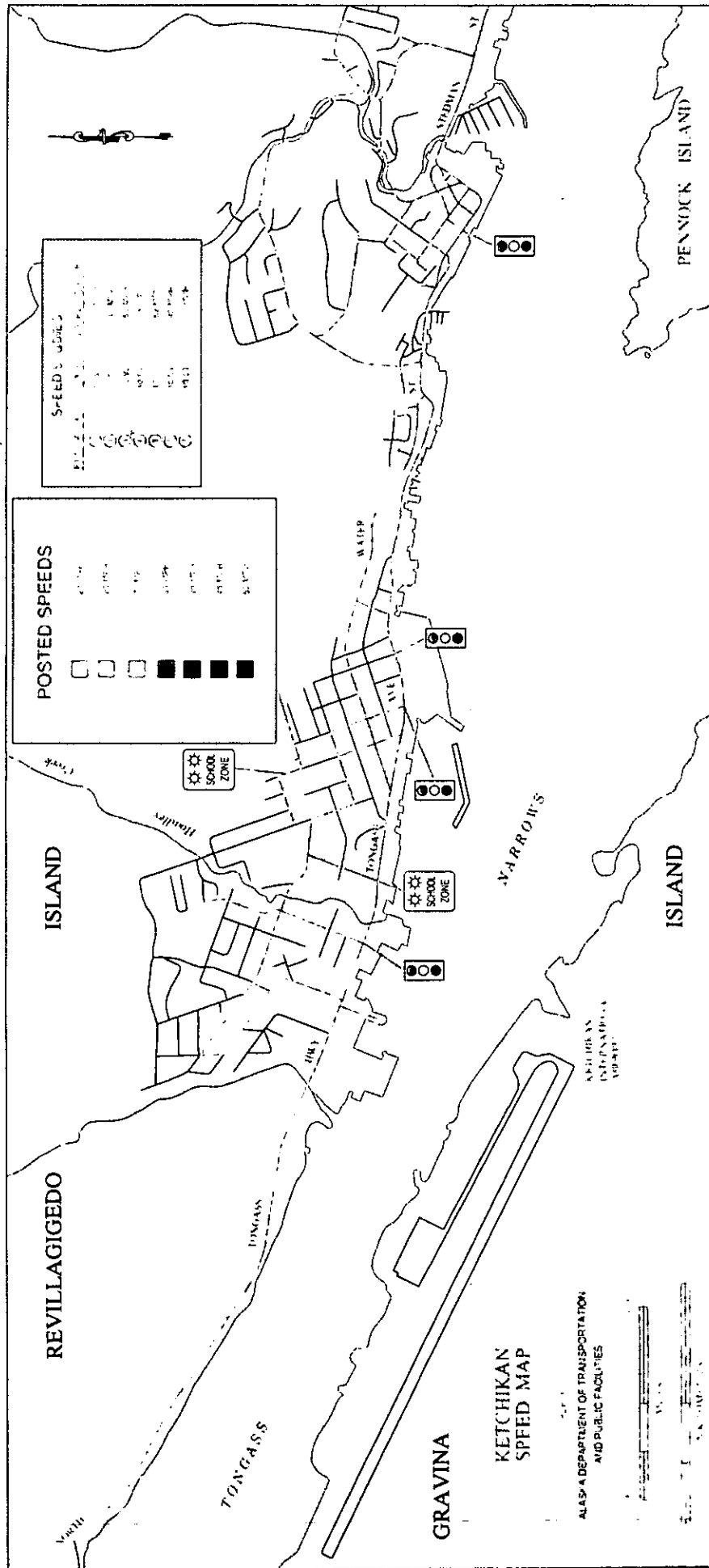


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# Alaska Conservation Alliance

*Uniting for Alaska's Future*

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March 4, 2009

The Honorable Senator Stedman  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**Re: SB 59 - An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles**

Dear Senator Stedman,

On behalf of the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA), a consortium of 40 Alaska-based conservation groups, I would like to express our support for SB 59, an Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles. Allowing low speed vehicles to access more mileage of state and municipal roads will allow those already in possession of a low-speed vehicle to get more use out of their investment while at the same time giving an added incentive to low-speed vehicle purchases by meeting more customer needs.

For those Alaskan communities working toward energy self-sufficiency through local, secure clean-energy production and use, the switch to hybrid-electric and all-electric vehicles is a must. By allowing low speed vehicles to access additional roads within these communities, roads that could take drivers to the airport, hospital, ferry terminal or grocery store, this bill will make cheap, efficient, low-speed vehicles more practical in these self-sufficient communities.

Additionally, low-speed vehicles can cost tens of thousands of dollars less than full-sized electric cars. This bill will help broaden the penetration of electric vehicles and offer transportation options to commuters with lower incomes. The Alaska Conservation Alliance strongly encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass SB 59. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Troll  
Executive Director



CC: Senate Judiciary Committee members

PO Box 1006600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 / Ph. 907.258.6171 / Fax 907.258.6177  
419 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 321, Juneau, Alaska 99801 / Ph. 907.463.3366 / Fax 907.463-2554 / [www.akvoice.org](http://www.akvoice.org)

Gerald Herbrandson  
*Solar Wind of Alaska*  
P.O. Box 1374  
720 Sandy Beach Rd.  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833  
(907) 772-4898 Cell (907) 518-1237  
[solarwind@aptalaska.net](mailto:solarwind@aptalaska.net)

Senator Bert Stedman  
Representative Peggy Wilson

February 3, 2009

**Regarding:** HB59 – “An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles”

1998 I started the business *Solar Wind* to promote the use of alternative energy systems within Alaska. In the 11 years that I have been in business I have sold over \$350,000.00 worth of solar panels, inverters, batteries, generator, water turbines, and wind turbines. I have well over 100 customers significantly reducing their dependence upon carbon fuels.

Last year I expanded my business to include electric vehicles (EV's). Currently there are nine (9) EV's operating in Petersburg. Since last summer these vehicles have been driven over 8,000 miles saving 400 gallons of fuel.

EV's are ideal for small rural communities that have access to hydroelectric power. They cost less than 2 cents a mile to operate. The battery system that comes with the vehicle provides over 25 miles of range and is designed to function for over 20,000 miles, adding about 12 cents per mile for operation. There is minimal maintenance and no oil changes.

These EV's are a **low-speed vehicle (LSV)** and are ideally suited for short trips to the post office, grocery store, school, and shopping. Such short trips are the most fuel inefficient for internal combustion engines (ICE) and are hard on a cold engine.

Within Petersburg, as well as many of our smaller communities, most of our roads are posted at 35 mph or less and therefore are well suited to LSV's. The proposal to allow the use of LSVs on roads posted at 45 mph or less would greatly broaden the window of use.

I spoke to our chief of police, Mr. Stone, regarding the use of LSV's within Petersburg and he commented that many of our older citizens never drive over 25 mph anyway. He did not feel that their reduced speed would create a safety hazard within our community.

An interesting side note – many of my customers are older individuals who have difficulty getting in and out of conventional cars and trucks. However, they find the LSV's to be easy to get into and operate. They are some of my best champions driving their vehicles on a daily basis even through the winter.

I appreciate the support that you are providing to the use of alternative energy and LSV's. Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is information that I could provide or if you need support. Next time that you are in Petersburg I would enjoy giving you a ride from the airport or wherever (there may be a charge of 1.5 cents per mile).

Gerald Herbrandson  
*Solar Wind of Alaska*