



Virtual Open Houses, Round One

Meetings Summary

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

- **Session 1: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Session 2: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted two virtual open houses for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, via Zoom webinar. The first session began at 10:00 a.m., and the second at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of these open houses was to share information about the SEATP Update, review the Interactive StoryMap, gather community input, and identify local transportation priorities.

Each session included:

- Project overview, presented multiple times to accommodate the open house format.
- Review of the interactive StoryMap, which provided project details and visual context.
- Interactive Q&A, allowing participants to submit questions and comments via chat or audio.
- Discussion of community priorities and transportation needs.
- Resources for follow-up, including the SEATP website and interactive StoryMap.

Participants were encouraged to explore the Interactive StoryMap during the meeting:
<https://gis.dowl.com/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/64e8111340bc4dc9ae0eba5f3fb917b1>.

The StoryMap presentation highlighted:

- Overview of Southeast Transportation Plan Update effort
- History of transportation planning in Southeast Alaska.
- Emerging Themes
- Existing Conditions Overview and Detail, including interactive maps on marine, aviation, and roadway systems.





- How to provide Feedback through interactive and contact options.
- Next Steps and Schedule for the SEATP Update process.

Both sessions were recorded for accessibility. A total of 60 participants attended the morning session and 29 attended the evening session, including members of the project team.

Resources shared during the meetings included:

- SEATP website: www.southeastalaskatransportationplan.com
- Interactive StoryMap: gis.dowl.com portal
- Contact: Email SEATP@dowl.com | Phone (907) 562-2000

Additional links provided:

- [DOT&PF Southcoast Region Projects](#)
- [Alaska Aviation System Plan](#)
- [AMHS Long-Range Plan](#)
- [Chilkat Connector Study](#)

Questions and Comments Summary

Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)

- Critical Role for Communities: AMHS is vital for social and economic wellbeing, especially for villages like Kake (school travel, freight, heavy equipment, winter access).
- Service Restoration: Requests for ferry service between Ketchikan and Prince Rupert, BC, citing family connections and past convenience.
- Terminal Improvements:
 - Support for improving Kake’s AMHS terminal and increasing ferry stops.
 - Opposition to relocating Juneau’s ferry terminal to Cascade Point; concerns about cost, added travel time, and negative impacts on Skagway and Northern Inside Passage travelers.
- Long-Range Planning: Calls for prioritizing reliability and resilience, with investment in vessels using renewable fuels.

Airport & Aviation

- Questions raised about:
 - Floatplane dock maintenance and replacement across the region.
 - Airport parking issues in multiple communities.





- Essential Air Service (EAS):
 - Concerns about potential discontinuation of EAS funding and its impact on rural communities like Gustavus.
 - Requests for state contingency planning if federal EAS support ends.
 - DOT&PF acknowledged statewide discussions on EAS impacts and shared recent updates on Aleutian Airways service changes.
- Discussion regarding Airport Weather stations and need for redundancy to keep airports operational.

Roads & Pedestrian Safety

- Sitka residents requested improved walking and biking facilities along Halibut Point Road.
- Haines priorities included pedestrian mobility, highway safety, and affordable airfare.

Highway System

- Interest in an inventory of current highway maintenance deficiencies before considering expansion, noting weather impacts and funding shortages.

Specific Projects

- Chilkat Connector: Questions about its relationship to SEATP; link provided to ChilkatConnector.com.
- Cascade Point Project:
 - Criticism as a “waste of taxpayer dollars” benefiting mining interests over the general population.
 - Concerns about lack of public process before advancing design/build contracts and spending \$30 million amid budget constraints.
 - Questions about penalties if the project is halted by the Governor.
- Sitka Ferry Terminal Relocation: Inquiry about moving it to Baranof Warm Springs Bay, a long-standing community interest.

Tribal Engagement

- Request for details on DOT’s process for meaningful Tribal engagement, referencing recent legislative discussions.

Local Initiatives

- Organized Village of Kake announced their RAISE Planning Grant to improve the Kake Access Road toward Petersburg, coordinating with DOT&PF. They are continuing to seek funds for replacing culverts and for a geology study.





Community Priorities Highlighted

- Reliable ferry access and infrastructure.
- Pedestrian and bike safety improvements.
- Affordable transportation options (airfare and ferry).
- Maintenance and modernization of existing facilities over costly new projects.
- Snow removal for walking and biking facilities.
- Strong Tribal engagement and collaboration.
- Sustainable investment in transportation systems (renewable energy for vessels).
- Transparent public process for major projects like Cascade Point.
- Adequate public notice for all projects.

