



Hydaburg Community Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 19, 2026

- **3:00 pm – 4:30 pm.**
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The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted a virtual meeting with the Hydaburg Community to discuss the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update on March 19, 2026. The session began at 3:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting was to share information about the SEATP Update, share the proposed Plan Vision and Goals, gather Tribal input, and identify local transportation priorities.

Three attendees joined on behalf of Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA Tribe), and one on behalf of the City of Hydaburg.

The session included:

- Project overview
- Family of Plans
- Project Status
- Round 1 Public Engagement Summary
- Proposed Vision
- Proposed Goals
- Identified Risks
- Next Steps and Schedule for the SEATP Update process
- Feedback Opportunities, including the SEATP website and project contact information
- Discussion of Tribal priorities and transportation needs

Resources shared during the meetings included:

- SEATP website: southeastalaskatransportationplan.com
- Interactive StoryMap: gis.dowl.com portal
- Contact: Email SEATP@dowl.com | Phone (907) 562-2000
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, US Department of Transportation
- Alaska DOT&PF Public Crash Portal: <https://public.alaskadata.net/>
- Tribal Transportation Safety, FHWA





Questions and Comments Summary

Hydaburg Road Safety, Condition, and Maintenance

- Hydaburg Road is the only road connected to other communities, including Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, etc. Some residents work in other communities and drive the road daily.
- Hydaburg Road, originally built as a narrow winding logging road and later surfaced with chip seal, has deteriorated significantly.
- Two locations were indicated that have recently experienced landslide and water run off issues: Gulch Creek Bridge at 12-mile and another location near milepost 4-5.
- Residents report four fatalities since 1986, dangerous winter conditions, full-width potholes, and 36 miles without cell service, leaving the community vulnerable during emergencies.
- The community is requesting major improvements, including widening, resurfacing, and guardrails.
- The community requests more frequent winter plowing. Plowing may be done in the morning but can turn to slush and then freeze overnight.
- A potential solution discussed was a maintenance agreement between the HCA Tribe and the State through a tribal-state MOA. DOT&PF encouraged exploration to determine whether this is a realistic solution and suggested that the SEATP Update consider a potential recommendation.

Other Roads

- There are localized safety concerns near the Klawock River Hatchery parking area off Hollis Highway, related to summer tourism activity, driver speed, and winter black-ice conditions.

Emergency Access and Essential Services

- Hydaburg depends on travel to Craig and Klawock for crucial services, making road access to these communities essential. Some specific service needs include the following (not a complete list):
 - Groceries
 - Fuel for vehicles
 - Heating fuel
 - Medical Services
 - Air transportation (Klawock Airport for daily service)
 - Ferry Transportation (Hollis for daily service)
 - Employment in other communities (e.g., Klawock, Craig)
 - Travel for school events (e.g., sports, island-wide assemblies)
- Winter travel disruptions delay mail service, cancel fuel deliveries, and force residents to self-haul critical supplies.
- Limited clinic availability and unreliable emergency response further increase the community's vulnerability during road closures or severe weather.





Safety Planning

- Hydaburg has not yet developed a safety plan.
- The community is open to pursuing SS4A funds or Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds (TTPSF) to develop a safety plan and begin collecting safety data. Resource links were shared.

Economic Development, Tourism, and Transportation Infrastructure

- The community seeks improved tourist drop-off areas and faster investment in supporting infrastructure to accommodate growing tourism and freight movement.
- With a deep-water port and expanding shipping and fisheries activity, Hydaburg anticipates continued economic growth.

Air Service

- The community previously received two to three flights per day and now receives about one flight per week or less. Due to limited flights, residents rely more on the road for access, supplies, and travel.
- Mail is usually delivered by floatplane, but the schedule depends on the weather. When the seaplane base cannot be used, mail is transported by road instead.
- The current seaplane dock is in poor condition and does not consistently support operations. A new seaplane dock project is funded, and the community expects it will support more reliable service and may allow for additional tourism or business-related air activity.
- The community requests expansion of the Klawock airport to accommodate jet service.

