



Organized Village of Saxman Small Group Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted a virtual meeting with the Organized Village of Saxman (OVS) to discuss the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update on March 12, 2026. The session began at 9:00 a.m.

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.

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





Questions and Comments Summary

Coordination and Engagement

- OVS emphasized the importance of communication and more regular coordination with State leadership and project staff.

Funding Opportunities

- OVS noted interest in using Tribal-specific federal funding sources, such as the Tribal Transportation Program and Scenic Byways grants, and asked that these programs be incorporated where appropriate into SEATP discussions.
- OVS identified bridge infrastructure in the Ketchikan area as a major regional priority and expressed strong interest in partnering with the State on future bridge work. This included support for focusing on the Tongass Avenue and Water Street viaducts. While no other specific bridge locations were identified, OVS emphasized the importance of coordinating with the Ketchikan Indian Community, which may have additional bridge needs.

Project-Related

- OVS reiterated interest in long-standing South Tongass projects and emphasized that these commitments remain important to the community. They expressed frustration that the projects have been under development since the 1990s, with intermittent progress.
- OVS asked about whether Scenic Byways funding could support the improvements to the bicycle and walking path along the South Tongass highway. The discussion noted that the program available to the State through the Federal Highway Administration is no longer funded. OVS indicated that there is Scenic Byways funding available to Tribes, which may present an opportunity.
- OVS expressed appreciation for recent airport improvements in Ketchikan, noting their positive impact on the community.
- OVS expressed support for the Saxman / South Tongass Ferry Terminal and requested the feasibility study status and documents, if available.

2027 Canoe Event: Traffic and Safety Needs

- OVS described anticipated traffic and pedestrian safety needs for the July 27–Aug 4, 2027 canoe event, including short-term traffic control and safe highway crossings.





Concluding Comments

- DOT&PF will follow up with requested documents, reviewing OVS's forthcoming bridge list, and supporting early right-of-way and safety traffic coordination.
- DOT&PF and OVS will continue coordination on bridge priorities and funding opportunities.

