



# Virtual Tribal Coordination Meeting

## Meeting Summary

**Thursday, December 18, 2025**

- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
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The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted a virtual Tribal Coordination meeting for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update on Thursday, December 18, 2025, via Teams webinar. The session began at 10:00 a.m. This meeting included all Southcoast Region Tribes, including Tribes in the Southwest area.

The purpose of this meeting was to share information about the SEATP Update, review the Interactive StoryMap, gather Tribal input, and identify local transportation priorities. This Tribal Coordination meeting is the first in an ongoing Tribal Coordination meeting series.

The session included:

- Project overview
- 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 Tribal 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





The session was recorded for accessibility. A total of 35 participants attended the session, including members of the project team.

Resources shared during the meetings included:

- SEATP website: [www.southeastalaskatransportationplan.com/](http://www.southeastalaskatransportationplan.com/)
- Interactive StoryMap: [gis.dowl.com](http://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](#)
- Alaska DOT&PF [AASP Public Comment Map](#)
- DOT&PF [Reporting and Community Map Tools](#)
- [2045 AMHS Long-Range Plan](#)
- [Tribal Consultation Policy](#)

## Questions and Comments Summary

### Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)

- Terminal Improvements:
  - Support for increasing Kake’s AMHS ferry stops.
  - Support for constructing a road from Sitka to the east side of Baranof Island so AMHS day boats from Juneau can better serve the area.
- Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is working to create a school program for maritime professionals to build a workforce pipeline for the ferry system.

### Airport & Aviation

- Comment:
  - Kake is serviced by only one airline, and roundtrip flights to larger communities with necessary services are unaffordable.





## Roads

- OVK is working with Kake Tribal Corporation and Sealaska Corporation on road systems and bridges.
- OVK successfully managed a large snow event using heavy equipment and snowplows.
- OVK are developing Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with United States Forest Service (USFS) for road maintenance.
- OVK is working with the City of Kake on MOA for maintenance of City right-of-way (ROW) within the community.

## Highway System

- Interest in inventorying current highway maintenance deficiencies before considering expansion, noting weather impacts and funding shortages.
- Support for using indigenous plants to support soil retention, wildlife habitat, food sources, biodiversity, and traditional practices.
- OVK is pursuing grant applications for culvert replacements and funding opportunities to study local rock quality for road projects.

## Specific Projects

- Sitka Ferry Terminal Relocation: Comments in support of moving it to Baranof Warm Springs Bay, a long-standing community interest.
- OVK received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning Grant for the Kake Access Road, creating a closer surface connection to Petersburg (12 miles away). The road is within State ROW and OVK is coordinating with DOT&PF.
- Question: How ongoing feasibility studies will be incorporated into SEATP planning process.

## Tribal Engagement

- Request for details on DOT&PF's process for meaningful Tribal engagement
- Attendees will take information gathered at this meeting back to Tribal leadership and Councils for consensus before submitting comments.
- Requests for Tribal one-on-one meetings with DOT&PF.





## Local Initiatives

- OVK announced plans their RAISE Planning Grant to improve the Kake Access Road toward Petersburg, coordinating with DOT&PF.
- OVK is continuing to seek funds for culvert replacements and a geology study.
- Chilkat Indian Village clarified comments from this meeting should not reflect CIV positions.
- OVK will submit its Tribal Transportation Long-Range Transportation Plan to DOT&PF once approved.
- Appreciation expressed for Tribal engagement and belief that meetings will gain momentum with increased frequency.

## Community Priorities Highlighted

- Reliable and efficient ferry access and infrastructure.
- Affordable transportation options (airfare and ferry).
- Coordinated maintenance of existing facilities across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Snow removal.
- Strong Tribal engagement and collaboration.

