



Public Open Houses, Round One

Meetings Summary

November 19, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Ketchikan, AK

November 20, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Juneau, AK

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted two open houses for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan Update. The first took place on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the Ketchikan High School Library, and the second on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Mendenhall Valley Public Library in Juneau.

These open houses aimed to share information about the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan Update, gather community input, and identify local priorities.

Attendees started arriving around 4:50 p.m. They signed in, received an overview of the open house purpose and layout, and picked up a project fact sheet. The fact sheet included a QR code linking to the project webpage with contact information and interactive story maps of existing community conditions

Project boards highlighted the planning area, schedule, emerging themes, goals, existing conditions, and public involvement opportunities.

At the Emerging Themes Station, six prompts guided discussions on key themes:

1. System reliability
2. Connectivity
3. Safe and equitable access
4. Maintenance and state of good repair
5. Climate and community resiliency
6. Economic and workforce sustainability

A central question “What are your top transportation priorities for your community?” encouraged attendees to share input directly on the boards.

Large roll plots in the center of the room allowed attendees to discuss specific areas for improvement, identify priorities, and document comments.





Project staff engaged with attendees, answered questions, and provided information. Contact details and comment sheets were available to encourage feedback and capture emerging themes and community priorities. The four question prompts included:

1. Looking ahead 20 years, what changes or improvements would you like to see in your community's transportation system?
2. What are the most important priorities or goals for transportation in your community (e.g., safety, accessibility, sustainability, economic growth)?
3. Are there specific types of infrastructure, such as roads, sidewalks, bike paths, or transit, that you think need attention or improvement?
4. Do you have any other ideas or concerns about transportation in your community?

A total of 19 participants signed in at Ketchikan and 41 in Juneau, including members of the project team.

Questions and Comments Summary

Feedback was gathered through conversations with project staff, notes on roll plots, written comment forms, community priority boards, and emails received after the open houses. Scanned copies of roll plots and comment sheets have been archived.

- **Community Resilience & Reliability / Environmental Protection & Climate Resilience**

- Disruptions in ferries, flights, or roads cause cascading impacts such as missed school, safety risks, and economic strain. (Comment Forms)
- Climate resilience planning is needed, including avoiding wetland development, restoring existing infrastructure, and minimizing ecological impacts. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
- Projects should fully assess environmental impacts on wildlife and salmon habitats and prioritize ecological integrity. (Open House Priority Board)
- Maintenance of existing infrastructure should be prioritized over new development in sensitive areas. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
- Ensure continuous access to key locations and address corridor vulnerabilities (e.g., Gravina Island, Tongass Highway pinch points). (Open House Priority Board)
- Redundancy and alternative modes are needed to maintain access during emergencies. (Comment Forms)
- Community access gaps noted (e.g., Petersburg). (Comment Forms)
- Concerns about environmental protection from Canadian mines, LNG export, and tourism-related impacts such as grey water discharge. (Comment Forms)





- Protect fisheries and marine ecosystems from infrastructure impacts. (Comment Forms)
- Include equal funding for rural communities and consider EV access. (Open House Priority Board)
- **Opposition to Cascade Point & Large Road Projects**
 - Cascade Point is opposed because it is seen as benefiting private mining interests, diverting public funds, and creating environmental harm. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Chilkat Connector and Bradfield Canal roads are viewed as unnecessary, costly, and environmentally damaging. (Open House Priority Board)
 - Public sentiment emphasizes keeping public funds for public benefit, not private enterprise. (Comment Forms)
 - Emphasis on maintaining existing infrastructure over new mega-projects. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Opposition to Upper Lynn Canal road plans, with ferry sailings seen as a better linkage. (Open House Priority Board).
- **Freight & Supply Chain**
 - Freight reliability is critical for food security and cost of living; revitalizing AMHS could help reduce costs. (Open House Priority Board)
 - Increased barge traffic and Canadian mining exports raise environmental and safety concerns, including risks entering Ketchikan. (Comment Forms)
- **Safety & Infrastructure Maintenance**
 - Prioritize maintenance over new construction, including improving road surfaces, lane markings, guardrails, and maintaining/replacing vessels as needed. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Enhance multimodal safety with more sidewalks, bike paths (not just lanes), ADA accessibility, safe harbors, and emergency access routes. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Requests for separated walking/bike paths along major roads, safer crosswalks, and sidewalk upkeep; praise for recent downtown pedestrian improvements. (Comment Forms)
 - Ensure adequate staffing for road maintenance and emergency response. (Comment Forms)
 - Specific local road upgrades mentioned: Fish Creek Road (to Eaglecrest Ski Area), Shelter Cove Road (Mile 3–10), and addressing snow removal issues on Davis Avenue in Juneau. (Comment Forms)





- Concerns about heavy truck traffic and wear on roads. (Comment Forms)
- Mixed views on roundabouts; suggestions for wider bike paths or road improvements from Lemon Creek to downtown. (Comment Forms)
- **Access & Mobility, Air Service & Regional Connectivity**
 - Non-stop flights such as Ketchikan–Anchorage are suggested to reduce school absences and improve mobility. (Comment Forms)
 - Petersburg and Gravina Island are cited as needing better connectivity. (Comment Forms, Open House Priority Board)
 - Reliable transportation across roads, ferries, and flights is critical for school operations and community mobility; disruptions cause cascading impacts like missed classes and logistical challenges. (Comment Forms)
 - Restore ferry schedules to support school activities and regional events. (Comment Forms)
 - Critical need for emergency access, including a second Douglas Island bridge to improve safety and redundancy. (Open House Priority Board)
 - Juneau second crossing proposals emphasize strain on the single Douglas Bridge and suggest state-city partnership and incremental upgrades to intersections and connectors. (Open House Priority Board)
 - Requests that any second crossing avoid the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area, with early coordination among fishermen, processors, and ADF&G. (Comment Forms)
 - Support for multiuse access to limited island lands and adoption of non-federal rural road standards. (Comment Forms)
- **Active Transportation, Public Transit & Accessibility**
 - Requests include separated bike paths, more sidewalks, and ADA compliance. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Improve public transit reliability and frequency, including bus routes and paratransit to ferry terminals. (Open House Priority Board)
 - Prioritize snow removal for pedestrian safety and bus stop access. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
 - Expand bike and pedestrian infrastructure for residents and visitors. (Comment Forms)
 - Explore use of utility corridors and forestry roads for alternative routes and recreation. (Comment Forms).





- **Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) & Ferry Service**

- Reliable, frequent ferry service is a top priority across Southeast Alaska, with calls for predictable schedules, affordable fares, and restored routes such as Prince Rupert and Hyder. (Open House Priority Board, Comment Forms)
- Advocacy for Hyder over Prince Rupert for ferry service, citing benefits such as being on Alaskan soil, lower long-term costs, use of U.S. labor and steel, and avoidance of lease renewals. (Comment Forms).
- Maintenance, staffing, and new vessels should be prioritized over new terminals like Cascade Point. (Comment Forms, Open House Priority Board)
- Ferries are viewed as essential for school events, healthcare, and economic activity. (Comment Forms)
- Requests include:
 - Affordable fares (current costs cited as prohibitive, e.g., \$1,640 Juneau–Bellingham for one driver and pickup).
 - Staff retention and training, with better pay and benefits for AMHS employees.
 - New vessels and upgrades to existing terminals for efficiency (e.g., drive-through loading).
- Suggestions include:
 - Marketing AMHS and partnering with communities for travel packages.
 - Discount programs (frequent user incentives).
 - Transition to eco-friendly propulsion (battery-electric, hydrogen).
 - Nominal fees for walk-on items (bikes, kayaks, dog crates).
- Environmental concerns include risks from mines, LNG facilities, tourism grey water, and barge traffic entering the region, with requests for stronger safeguards. (Comment Forms)
- Note: Yakutat has lacked service and was specifically mentioned as needing attention. (Comment Forms)

- **Economic Development & Community Needs**

- Support economic vitality while safeguarding environmental health. (Comment Forms)
- Prioritize roads for rural use and limited lands development. (Comment Forms)
- Ensure equal funding for rural communities and local infrastructure that benefits residents, not just tourism. (Comment Forms)
- Consider EV access and use of utility corridors for future planning. (Comment Forms)

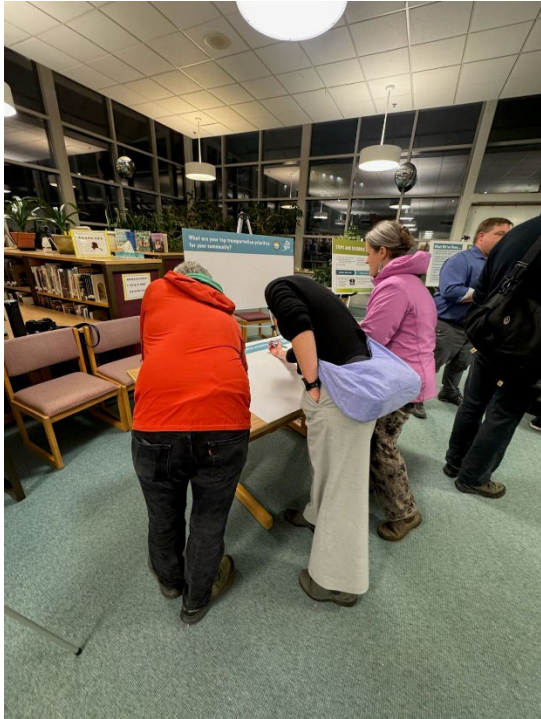




- Interest in multiuse access to limited island lands and adoption of non-federal rural road standards. (Comment Forms).
- **Public Engagement & Messaging**
 - Appreciation is expressed for DOT staff and consultants' outreach efforts. (Comment Forms)
 - Clear communication on environmental impacts and prioritization of community needs is needed.

Ketchikan Open House Photos





Juneau Open House Photos





Open House Priorities Boards

Juneau

