SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

State Project No. SFHWY00533 / Federal Project No. 000330
Last Updated February 2026

1. What is the purpose of the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP)?

The SEATP is a 20-year multimodal transportation plan that will guide future Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) investments in infrastructure to improve mobility, reliability, and safety while supporting Southeast Alaska's economic vitality, community connectivity, and long-term resilience.

2. What kind of decisions does the SEATP make?

The SEATP sets the strategic direction for improving system performance and reliability of DOT&PF's existing transportation systems and guides development and maintenance of facilities for multimodal transportation.

It identifies projects for future funding opportunities and lists projects that align transportation investments with regional economic, community, and freight needs.

The SEATP helps guide overall transportation strategy and future decisions but does not dedicate funding, select projects, or make final prioritization decisions. All feedback is useful.

3. Is this for all community transportation or for DOT&PF infrastructure?

The plan focuses on DOT&PF infrastructure, but it also considers local and Tribal transportation needs and local infrastructure connections to DOT&PF systems. Local and Tribal projects may be listed to support future funding opportunities, but SEATP does not make decisions about them.

4. How will the SEATP be updated?

DOT&PF will:

- Identify and evaluate existing transportation facilities, issues, and needs, with emphasis on maintenance, safety, and mobility considerations.
- Align with the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Long-Range Plan (LRP), the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, and other adopted transportation plans.
- Seek and incorporate public input to reflect community needs.

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5. What is the SEATP update timeline?

6. How are projects funded?

- Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP): A four-year program for preserving and developing Alaska's transportation system. It includes interstate, state, and some local highways, bridges, ferries, and public transportation. This program does not include: airports or non-ferry-related ports and harbors. The STIP covers all system improvements that receive partial or full federal funding and are expected to occur during its four-year duration.
Learn more: https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/.

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP): Similar to the STIP, but for airports. Learn more: https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/AviationSystemPlan/.

- Connect to SEATP: Projects listed in SEATP may later appear in the STIP or AIP if selected as key priorities during those programs' update cycles. Both processes include public comment opportunities.

- State funds may also be used to fund capital projects for maintenance, operations, and improvements to the transportation system. This funding is allocated every fiscal year through Alaska's State Legislature. These projects are typically not programmed into the STIP or AIP, unless the project is regionally significant.

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7.   How do other DOT&PF plans fit into the SEATP?

SEATP is part of a family of DOT&PF plans that set policies, strategies, and priorities for transportation in Southeast Alaska.

Plans like the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and Transportation Asset Management Plan establish overarching policies and goals that guide how DOT&PF works to keep Alaska moving, addressing both infrastructure development and maintenance. These plans include actions to achieve those goals.

To support these goals, DOT&PF develops modal, system, and regional area plans that analyze trends and needs for specific transportation types or geographic areas:

- Modal plans focus on freight and marine transportation networks.
- Regional plans, like SEATP, translate statewide policies into region-specific transportation strategies that support economic growth, reliable freight movement, workforce access, community connectivity, and long-term system resilience.

Learn more:

- DOT&PF Transportation Plans: https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/transportation-plans.shtml.
- AMHS Long Range Plan: https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/operations/.

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8. How does the SEATP interface with the AMHS Long Range Plan?

The SEATP builds on the AMHS 2045 LRP, which outlines DOT&PF's priorities for AMHS vessels, terminals, and service levels. The SEATP will align with and integrate those priorities into the broader regional transportation framework.

9. Reliable ferry service is essential for regional transportation. How will the SEATP affect ferry investments, scheduling, and budgeting?

Previous SEATPs made recommendations for ferry service. With the recent AMHS 2045 LRP, the SEATP will incorporate those strategies and document additional AMHS-related comments and potential recommendations.

10. How does the SEATP impact specific transportation projects?

The SEATP may list specific projects or identify how projects align with transportation strategies, but it does not guarantee funding. The plan informs decisions rather than making them.

During the SEATP update process, any comments about specific projects will be shared with the project team for those projects.

Learn more: DOT&PF Southcoast Region's current projects in design and construction: https://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/.

11. How will the SEATP address non-motorized access?

The plan covers all modes of transportation, including strategies and potential projects for non-motorized (active) transportation, such as walking, biking and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

12. What's the status of other Southeast Region projects?

See Southcoast Region Projects webpage for key projects like Chilkat Connector, Cascade Point Ferry Terminal, and others: https://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/.

13. How does this plan address resiliency?

Resiliency is an emerging theme. It involves identifying projects that make bridges, roads, airports, and other infrastructure more resilient to extreme weather conditions.

14. How does this plan address freight?

The DOT&PF is currently developing a Statewide Freight Plan. The SEATP will identify transportation strategies and potential projects that improve freight reliability and support freight movement to strengthen Southeast Alaska's economy.

15. Where can I learn more, share comments, or be involved in developing the SEATP?

- Visit the project website: www.southeastalaskatransportationplan.com/.
- Sign up to receive project update emails from the project website.
- Email the project team at SEATP@dowl.com or call (907) 562-2000.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

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