

Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan

Community-Identified Transportation Needs



State Project No. SFHWY00533 / Federal Project No. 000330

The Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update highlights transportation priorities identified by Southeast Alaska communities through Community Transportation Workshops and other outreach efforts. These priorities are separate from the plan's formal recommendations and are included to support coordination, strengthen partnerships and help identify funding opportunities.

Continued collaboration can help DOT&PF and its partners advance priority projects, respond to emergencies, and support community planning, particularly as recent federal investments have expanded project-specific funding opportunities available to state, local, and tribal governments.

The projects and needs presented below reflect input received during the planning process and are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of transportation needs across Southeast Alaska.

Aviation

BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	AIRPORT NAME (LOCATION ID)	CATEGORY	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ketchikan Airport Ferries	Capital Projects	The Ketchikan airport ferries are aging and require replacement or major overhaul. With airport terminal expansion underway, maintaining reliable ferry service is a top priority for the Borough.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Klawock Airport Vehicle Parking	Capital Projects	Development of designated parking at Klawock Airport.

Roads

BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	PROJECT SHORT NAME	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Haines Borough	Haines Chilkat State Park Roads	Chilkat State Park roads are in poor condition, with grade and erosion issues that require a full redesign.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Hoonah City Streets Expansion and Improvements	New roads to open additional land for housing development in Hoonah.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Hoonah Garteeni Rehab & Sidewalk	Roadway repairs following utility upgrades and the rehabilitation of Garteeni Highway, including new sidewalks.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Gustavus Wilson Road Drainage & Four Corners Flooding	Chronic flooding issues on lower Wilson Road and at the Dock/Wilson/Gustavus Road intersection. Flooding affects nearby properties, including local businesses, while PFAS contamination in the area remains a major concern.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Gustavus Good River Bridge Preservation & Bank Stabilization	Ongoing embankment erosion along the Good River.
Juneau, City and Borough	Egan-Yandukin and Glacier Hwy Connection	Implement the recommended project in the PEL study - a Partial Access Signalized Intersection.
Juneau, City and Borough	Juneau Fish Creek Road	Maintenance and improvements.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Saxman Totem Row Safety Improvements	Implement safety improvements along Totem Row.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Harris Street Bridge	Identified as structurally deficient in 2021.

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BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	PROJECT SHORT NAME	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Traffic light at Three Bears; Reduced speed limit through Saxman	Maintenance and speed reduction.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Shelter Cove Road	Maintenance and improvements.
Petersburg Borough	Airport Access Road	Widening and reconstruction of the Airport Access Road to provide second route to town.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Hydaburg Road Reconstruction	Provide realignment and safety improvements including improvement of sight distance and provision of shoulders.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Kake Access Road	Provide surface connection for Kake from Petersburg.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Kasaan Access Road	Road remains unpaved and in poor condition. The community has passed a resolution identifying the project as top priority.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Klawock-Hollis Highway	Address safety and landslide concerns and a section of new sidewalk within Klawock.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Thorne Bay Road	Address frost heaving and poor pavement conditions. The road's narrow width is a concern for logging and freight trucks.
Sitka, City and Borough	Lincoln Street Improvements	Located downtown, the road has historical and cultural resources and is a main thoroughfare for cruise ship visitors.
Sitka, City and Borough	Blue Lake Road Improvements	Resurface and grade two miles.
Sitka, City and Borough	Sitka to Baranof Warm Springs Bay	Construct a new connection to Baranof Warm Springs Bay
Skagway Municipality Borough	Dyea Road Resurfacing	Resurfacing and signage.
Skagway Municipality Borough	Main Street Rehabilitation	Address poor infrastructure condition, utility improvements, and sidewalk improvements.
Wrangell City and Borough	Emergency Access Road/Back Loop Road	Resurfacing.
Wrangell City and Borough	Ishiyama & Shoemaker Road Improvements	Road improvements and the community would also like a continuous loop from the end of Ishiyama Drive to the end of FS6259 (USFS Route known locally as Pat's Creek Road).

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Bridges

BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	BRIDGE NAME (BN)	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Juneau, City and Borough	Juneau Douglas North Crossing (TBD)	Additional crossing needed between Juneau and Douglas.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Salmon River Bridge (444) (Gustavus)	Repair or Replacement (erosion issues).
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ketchikan Creek Bridge (726)	Structurally deficient and in poor condition.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Tongass Avenue Viaduct (797) & Water Street Viaduct (797)	Improvements/Replacements.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Little Gunnuk Creek Culvert (Kake)	Significant maintenance issue, currently failing. Desire to replace it with a bridge that includes pedestrian access.

Active Transportation

BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	PROJECT SHORT NAME	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Haines Borough	Haines Sidewalks	Increased sidewalk connectivity in areas where active transportation users are using the road, such as Small Tracts Road, Union Street, and roads around Haines High School.
Juneau, City and Borough	Juneau Trail Master Plan	Update the 2020 Juneau Trail Master Plan.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ketchikan Downtown Pedestrian Improvements	Ketchikan downtown pedestrian improvements; interest in finding alternate staging areas for tourist buses to relieve pressure on core downtown.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Craig-Klawock Multi-Use Path	A multi-use path along Craig-Klawock Highway.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Klawock-Hollis Highway Sidewalk (Bayview Blvd. to J Street)	Improvements to the Klawock/Hollis Highway to address safety and landslide concerns and a section of new sidewalk within Klawock.
Sitka City and Borough	Halibut Point Road Multi-Use Path	A multi-use path along Halibut Point Road from Cascade Creek Road (Sea Mart Quality Foods) north to the ferry terminal.
Skagway Borough, Municipality	Main Street Rehabilitation	Improvements to Main Street in Skagway to address poor infrastructure condition, utility improvements, and sidewalk improvements.

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Harbors and Ferries

BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	PROJECT SHORT NAME	CATEGORY	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUE / NEED
Haines Borough	Letnikof Harbor	Capital Projects	Currently lacks functional floats and a launch ramp. Planned to be replaced.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Docks & Breakwater Improvements (Gustavus)	Capital Projects	Dock and breakwater improvements in Gustavus.
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Angoon Barge Landing Study	Capital Projects	Replace existing, damaged landing barge.
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ferry between Saxman and Annette Bay	Service	Advance shorter-route ferry connection serving Saxman and Annette Island.
Petersburg Borough	Papke's Landing Reconstruction	Capital Projects	Replace existing ramp, dock, and float system and improve adjacent uplands to support parking and storage needs.
Petersburg Borough	Scow Bay Haul-out & Harbor	Capital Projects	Upland expansion, ramp, and utility extensions, washdown pad, jetty improvements, and boarding float to improve safety and reduce travel to alternate facilities. Proposed harbor improvements include additional moorage for larger vessels and dedicated float.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Maintenance of AMHS Ferry Terminal in Coffman Cove	Maintenance and Operations	Identify jurisdictional roles and responsibilities regarding maintenance and liability of the ferry terminal.
POW-Hyder Census Area	Kake Fuel Dock	Capital Projects	New fuel dock facility.
Skagway Municipality Borough	Ferry Terminal Improvements	Capital Projects	Replacement of the ferry terminal which serves dual purpose for ferries and non-ferry ships. At the workshop it was noted that there were nine winter ferry cancellations attributed to docking issues due to degradation of the float.
Wrangell, City and Borough	New Barge Landing	Capital Projects	Current barge landing is not rated for the weight and size of the current loads and is in a state of disrepair.
Yakutat, City and Borough	Small Boat Harbor - Supplemental Funds	Programmatic and Funding	Remaining funding gap of approximately \$3-4 million needed to complete planned improvements to the Yakutat Small Boat Harbor.
Yakutat, City and Borough	Ferry Access and Service	Service	Limited marine service options serving Yakutat. Jet air service was noted as insufficient to meet broader community development and freight needs. Marine freight service is limited, with AML providing service approximately once per month, increasing to twice per month during the summer season.

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Recommendations for Plans and Studies



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The Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update identified several planning needs across transportation modes in Southeast Alaska. Maintaining up-to-date plans better positions DOT&PF to compete for funding by ensuring investment priorities remain clearly defined.

MODE	PLAN/STUDY						
Airports	Update the region's Airport Master Plans (AMPs).						
Airports	Strengthen the function and application of Airport Emergency Plans (AEPs) across Southeast. This includes maintaining current AEPs at certificated airports in accordance with 14 CFR § 139.325 and ensuring that operational roles, communication procedures, and mutual aid coordination remain accurate and up to date.						
Airports	Evaluate regional seaplane facilities. The evaluation should: • Develop a seaplane facility classification with mode-specific performance measures for the AASP. • Verify and standardize facility location data (e.g., water lanes vs. tie-up floats). • Improve inventory and descriptions of floats, amenities, and condition. • Document alternative interim or rapidly deployable tie-up and shore-access solutions near vulnerable infrastructure. • Clarify the marine-aviation interface, including roles and jurisdiction. • Identify funding sources for near-term and long-term improvements.						
AMHS	Advance a feasibility study to explore the shared use of AMHS facilities for freight, tourism, or other community services. The feasibility study may be systemwide or focused on a specific community location where there is an identified need to explore co-location of services.						
Roads and AMHS	Advance a comprehensive study to evaluate long-term trade-offs between AMHS service and roadway investments, including identification of strategic road connections that can shorten ferry routes and assessment of life-cycle cost, system reliability, operating costs, and overall cost-effectiveness.						
Roads and AMHS	Advance feasibility studies for the following proposed road connections: • Kake-Petersburg • Across Baranof Island • Tenakee-Hoonah						
Roads	Develop mitigation plans to address specific at-risk infrastructure and high-risk events, including: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Ketchikan Viaducts</td> <td>• Sitka Harbor Bridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Lewis Reef Tunnel</td> <td>• Salmon Creek Dam (event)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Juneau-Douglas Bridge</td> <td>• Mendenhall Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (event)</td> </tr> </table>	• Ketchikan Viaducts	• Sitka Harbor Bridge	• Lewis Reef Tunnel	• Salmon Creek Dam (event)	• Juneau-Douglas Bridge	• Mendenhall Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (event)
• Ketchikan Viaducts	• Sitka Harbor Bridge						
• Lewis Reef Tunnel	• Salmon Creek Dam (event)						
• Juneau-Douglas Bridge	• Mendenhall Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (event)						
Bridges	Complete Southeast culvert inventory (location and condition) and publish data.						
Active Transportation	Identify and prioritize active transportation network gaps for targeted investment.						
Airports and AMHS	Advance systemwide environmental, cultural, and historical studies for ferry terminals and airports to support project delivery. For airports, this strategy may also support airport tenants to meet FAA requirements for development pursuits.						

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Project Recommendations



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The Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update includes project recommendations to improve and develop a well-integrated multimodal transportation network for Southeast Alaska. Recommendations presented are focused on DOT&PF infrastructure.

Areawide Capital Project Priorities

Several regionwide capital project priorities are identified that focus on state of good repair, resiliency, safety, and community priorities.

MODE	PROJECT
All	Continue to support community-identified project priorities, such as those identified in Community Transportation Workshops, through partnership activities. These activities may include identifying funding opportunities and providing communities or partner agencies with letters of recommendation. Where project priorities are shared, further partnership activities may include developing cost estimates, pursuing funding, and supporting project delivery.
Active Transportation	Advance safety and accessibility projects for active transportation facilities.
AMHS	Advance project recommendations identified in the AMHS 2045 LRP.
Aviation	Advance airport state of good repair projects. Recommendations are focused on pavement, lighting, and landside infrastructure.
Aviation	Advance airport resiliency projects. Recommendations are focused on weather stations, weather cameras, and wind cones.
Aviation	Advance airport environmental projects. Recommendations are focused on PFAS contamination, environmental impacts, and wildlife interactions.
Aviation and Harbors	Identify funding and advance projects that address deteriorating seaplane-base and harbor facilities. As facilities are improved, identify opportunities to transfer facilities to local governments.
Bridges	Advance bridge state of good repair projects. Recommendations are focused on addressing poor-condition bridges.
Bridges	Advance bridge resiliency projects. Recommendations are focused on addressing specific identified bridge risks.
Roads	Advance roadway state of good repair projects. Recommendations are focused on rehabilitation and preservation.
Roads	Advance roadway resiliency projects. Recommendations are focused on rockfall and erosion mitigation, remote avalanche control and detection systems, and landslide susceptibility mapping.

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Capital Project Priorities

Specific capital projects identified in the SEATP Update are those that provide regional transportation benefits or address a priority community need associated with a DOT&PF asset and are not yet fully funded. Several of these projects require substantial capital investment and will likely necessitate partnerships to pursue discretionary grant funding. New assets include Angoon Airport, Glacier Lemon Spur Extension, Juneau-Douglas North Crossing, and the Cascade Point Ferry Terminal. Major state of good repair projects include the Klondike Highway and the Water Street and Tongass Ave Viaducts. The Hyder Levee is a non-transportation public facility project identified because its failure could have a significant impact on the community.

MODE	BOROUGH / CENSUS AREA	PROJECT
Airports	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Angoon Airport
Roads	Juneau, City and Borough	Glacier Lemon Spur Extension
Roads	Skagway Borough, Municipality	Klondike Highway Rehabilitation: Skagway River Bridge to Canadian Border
Bridges	Juneau, City and Borough	Juneau-Douglas North Crossing
Bridges	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Complete the South Tongass Highway and Water Street Viaduct Project that includes repairs to Tongass Avenue (BN 0997) and Water Street (BN 0797) viaducts
Bridges	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Water Street Viaduct (BN 797) Replacement
Bridges	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Tongass Avenue Viaduct (BN 997) Replacement
AMHS	Juneau, City and Borough	Cascade Point Ferry Terminal
Public Facilities	POW-Hyder Census Area	Hyder Levee

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Strategy Recommendations



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The Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update identified successful DOT&PF practices to continue and new strategies to pursue. The proposed new strategies focus on leveraging partnerships and implementing operational solutions to support DOT&PF's mission to Keep Alaska Moving.

Continue Successful Efforts

The DOT&PF currently leads several successful, routine efforts that contribute to maintaining a safe and reliable transportation system and supporting effective emergency response. This list is not exhaustive but reflects practices that have been identified through the SEATP Update and proven effective throughout Southeast.

Successful Routine Efforts			
	Workforce: Using a combination of policies and incentives to attract and retain a stable AMHS workforce. (AMHS)		Preventive Maintenance: - Implementing the annual chip-seal/seal-coat program for road preservation. - Maintain operability of existing facilities through continued routine maintenance, inspections, and preservation activities, including: Airports: Maintaining functional airport lighting systems, weather reporting systems, pavement, navigational aids, fencing, and vegetation control. Shoreside Marine Facilities: Maintaining functional docking aids, fender systems, and lighting. Roads and Active Transportation Facilities: Maintaining functional guardrails, lighting, traffic signals, signage, pavement, and other roadway related appurtenances. Bridges and Culverts: Maintaining functional electrical and fire protection infrastructure (tunnels), decking, rails, and providing scour protection and seismic retrofits to at-risk bridges.
	Emergency Response: - Providing routine maintenance and emergency response to address closures and localized damage for all transportation facilities. - Using dock-based Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Standardized inspection workflows, and redundant communications for assessing post-event conditions. - Maintaining emergency response readiness and crew training for sever-weather operations. (AMHS)		
	Air Service: Continuing to advocate for Essential Air Service		
			Funding: - Coordinating with federal agencies to support program alignment and increase awareness of funding opportunities. - Receiving a combination of state and federal funding to support capital investments and operating support. (AMHS)

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Leverage Partnerships

Continuing to develop and strengthen partnerships positions DOT&PF to more effectively advance priority projects, respond to emergencies, and support community planning efforts in Southeast. Recent federal investments underscore the growing importance of collaboration, as there are more project-specific funding opportunities than ever before, with a broader range of eligible recipients, including local and tribal governments. This creates new opportunities for DOT&PF to work with partners to align shared priorities, leverage diverse funding sources, and deliver projects that may not be feasible through traditional formula funding alone.

Partnership recommendations are summarized below.

FOCUS	MODE	RECOMMENDED PARTNERSHIPS
Community Planning	Other	Leverage the new SE RPO to further transportation planning efforts in Southeast.
Community Planning	Other	Coordinate with community leaders to address homeless encampments and flammable materials under bridges.
Community Planning	Roads	Leverage SS4A and other safety planning efforts to identify and advance targeted safety projects.
Emergency Response	Active Transportation and Transit	Coordinate with transit system operators to clarify and document roles for winter maintenance.
Emergency Response	Aviation	Maintain a system of reliable alternate landing areas and work with communities to document locally available stockpiles of materials to support timely airport repair and reconstruction in the event of damage to the airport runway. Consider emergency planning for non-certificated airports that do not have Airport Emergency Plans (AEPs).
Emergency Response	Multimodal Network	Explore advanced emergency procurement mechanisms to pre-qualify or pre-contract emergency response contractors across multiple communities to allow staff and equipment to be shared during major events.
Federal Requirements	Aviation	Continue to work with FAA to align sponsorship and ownership of seaplane facilities.
Funding	All	Partner with tribal governments for mutually beneficial opportunities to leverage TTP funds for safety planning, M&O activities, and infrastructure improvements.
Funding	All	Continue to partner with existing organizations, such as the Alaska Municipal League, Denali Commission, and SE RPO, to identify community project priorities and strengthen coordinated grant development.
Funding	All	Explore alternative funding options to advance projects that are not easily funded with regular formula funding including public-private partnerships, discretionary grants, state bonds, congressionally directed spending, and other funding.

Implement Operational Solutions

Operational challenges in Southeast are primarily driven by limited funding and workforce constraints. With regard to workforce, low wages were identified as a key factor contributing to difficulties in staff recruitment and retention.

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These issues are not easily addressed through area plan recommendations alone; many operational improvements will depend on broader, systemic changes at the departmental or statewide level, including increased funding and adjustments to workforce compensation.

The operational solutions identified that may help improve operations and increase efficiency are summarized below.

MODE	FOCUS	RECOMMENDATION	RESOURCE NEEDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
All Modes	Limited state resources used for local needs	Focus limited resources through the transfer of local roads, harbors, and seaplane facilities to local jurisdictions	Funding to improve assets to support community acceptance of assets.
All Modes	New assets constructed without commensurate M&O funding increases	Develop and implement a process to evaluate annual maintenance and operations costs when advancing new assets and request commensurate funding increases to cover new asset costs.	Staff resources to develop and implement a documented workflow.
All Modes	Ad hoc emergency response with regard to routes and staffing	Identify, document, and formalize emergency routes within and between communities, and document staff availability during hazard events.	Staff resources to develop.
Active Transportation and Transit	Slower response for winter snow clearing	Improve snow and ice removal on sidewalks and transit stops. When possible, clear these facilities at the same time as adjacent roads.	Additional staff, competitive wages to support recruitment/retention.
Active Transportation and Transit	Lack of snow removal information for users	Develop, adopt, and publish sidewalk winter maintenance prioritization for additional communities.	Staff resources to develop. Additional staff, competitive wages to support recruitment/retention.
Bridges	Lack of bridge crew to provide maintenance activities	Explore funding or organizational approaches for a dedicated bridge maintenance crew out of the DOT&PF's Southcoast Region Office.	Additional staff and equipment, competitive wages to support recruitment/retention.
Roads	High contractor costs, fewer road miles receive treatment	Explore funding or organizational approaches to reestablish a chip seal program using DOT&PF staff instead of contractors.	Additional staff, competitive wages to support recruitment/retention.