



SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES SUMMARY

September 15, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Sitka, AK

September 16, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Juneau, AK

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted two public open houses for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update. The first was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka, and the second on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at the Mendenhall Valley Public Library in Juneau. The purpose of the open houses was to gather public feedback on the draft SEATP.

Attendees signed in, received an overview of the open house format, and were provided with a project fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions document. The fact sheet included a QR code linking to the project website and contact information for submitting comments.

Display boards presented key elements of the draft SEATP, including the regional transportation system, public input received to date, challenges and opportunities, draft vision and goals, recommended strategies and priority projects, public involvement activities, project schedule, and opportunities to review and comment on the draft plan. Large roll plots allowed participants to discuss priority projects and provide written comments.

Project staff were available throughout both events to answer questions, provide information, and collect feedback. Comment sheets and contact information were available for anyone wishing to provide additional input.

A total of 15 participants signed in at the Sitka open house and 39 participants signed in at the Juneau open house, including project team members.

Questions and Comments Summary

Feedback was received through discussions with project staff, comments written on roll plots, comment forms, and email submissions. Scanned copies of roll plots and comment sheets have been archived.

- General Feedback
 - Support for the planning effort and continued public engagement
 - Request to include Juneau International Airport among project priorities
 - Questions regarding future fuel availability and potential shortages
 - Concern about overlap among regional transportation planning efforts
 - Request for additional discussion of climate-related policies and strategies





- Support for maintaining and improving existing transportation infrastructure through the State of Good Repair program
- Request to add photographs of capital project locations in the plan
- Questions about how the SEATP differs from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Comment that the draft SEATP is difficult to locate online
- Suggestion to hold a public hearing
- Question about how best to support DOT&PF transportation priorities through outreach to Alaska's congressional delegation
- Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)
 - Several participants expressed support for increased ferry service along existing routes, noting that ferries:
 - Provide a more economical travel option than air travel
 - Serve as a less fossil fuel-intensive transportation mode
 - Support movement of goods with Southeast Alaska
 - Provide essential travel for work and daily activities
 - Can operate in weather conditions that may limit air service
 - Should be made more affordable for passengers
- Comments on Draft Priority Projects
 - Cascade Point Ferry Terminal – Support:
 - Creates jobs and economic opportunities
 - May reduce fuel consumption and dependence on fossil fuels
 - Cascade Point Ferry Terminal – Opposition:
 - Funding could be directed toward higher-priority community needs
 - Limited travel time savings for passengers
 - Increased surface travel time and costs
 - Concern with snow removal and winter travel safety
 - Perceived benefit to private interests rather than the public
 - Concerns that increased use by heavy-equipment traffic could damage Glacier Highway
 - Juneau Douglas North Crossing – Support:
 - General support for advancing the project



- Juneau Douglas North Crossing – Opposition:
 - Potential impacts of some crossing locations to future expansion of Juneau International Airport
 - Funding could be directed toward higher-priority community needs
 - Concerns regarding environmental and ecological impacts
- Other Priority Projects
 - Support for the Klondike Highway Rehabilitation project
 - Support for the Glacier Lemon Spur Extension project
- Additional Project Comments
 - Roads and Highways
 - Glacier Highway connection at 3-mile
 - Extend Glacier Highway north to Egan Drive/Glacier Highway intersection
 - Support for a road connection between Juneau and Skagway
 - Improve Thane Road to reduce cruise ship-related congestion
 - Increase maintenance north of Auke Bay on Glacier Highway
 - Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)
 - New AMHS vessels and routes
 - Hybrid and electric ferry vessels
 - Transit and Alternative Transportation
 - Additional active transportation investments including:
 - Multiuse pathway on Halibut Point Road
 - Additional pedestrian crosswalks
 - Expanded public transit options, including:
 - Monorail service between downtown Sitka and Halibut Point Marine Services (HPMS)
 - High-speed rail service in Juneau connecting the airport, downtown, ferry terminal, and Mendenhall Valley
 - Expanded electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Southeast Alaska
 - Sitka Area Comments:
 - Complete and maintain Katlian Bay Road and report final project costs
 - Opposition to completing Katlian Bay Road
 - Support for safety and maintenance for the existing Katlian Bay Road
 - Add small bridges for pedestrians, bicyclists, and ATVs along Katlian Road



- Relocate the Sitka ferry terminal to Baranof Warm Springs
- Opposition to a road connection between Sitka and Baranof Warm Springs
- Project Opposition:
 - Opposition to the Rodman Bay Road and ferry terminal project
 - Opposition to the Chilkat Connector Road project
 - Opposition to the Baranof and Rodman Road projects
- Other Comments:
 - Repair or replace the existing Skagway dock
 - Support for improvements to small-community airports and airfields



Sitka Open House Photos





Juneau Open House Photos

