



Municipality of Skagway

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July 27, 2022

DRAFT

Katherine Keith
Director of Change Management AMHS, ADOT
PO Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
katherine.keith@alaska.gov

RE: **Support for ADOT Ferry Concept**

Dear Director Keith,

Thank you for meeting with us regarding the No-Low Emissions Ferry Grant Program. We appreciate being kept in the loop on the grant-writing process.

As you know, there is broad-based support in our communities for construction of a new, electric ferry customized for the shorter routes and unique sea conditions of North Lynn Canal.

With regard to the current grant opportunity, it is critical that any vessel considered be designed to withstand the winter sea conditions between Auke Bay and Haines and Auke Bay and Skagway. This will give the vessel the flexibility to connect our communities to Juneau in the winter when service from mainliners or Alaska Class ferries may not be available.

We understand that a shuttle with a capacity of 140 pax and 44 cars is currently under consideration. We support this concept as long as it can withstand winter conditions in Lynn Canal. A vessel of this nature could operate as an all-electric shuttle between Haines and Skagway and as a hybrid on trips to Auke Bay.

For more than two decades our communities have advocated for regular day boat service to support our robust independent traveler industry. With regard to the electric ferry, we envisioned daily shuttle service between Haines and Skagway paired with ACF service from Auke Bay to Haines four or five days a week and Auke Bay to Skagway two days a week. However, having the capability to sail to Auke Bay when the Alaska Class Ferry is not available would allow our dayboat service to continue uninterrupted in the summer, and allow our residents to reach Juneau in the winter.

We are excited to see AMHS embracing this new, efficient technology and would be pleased to write a letter of support for your grant application.

Letter from Cremata & Olerud to Katherine Keith
RE: Support for ADOT Ferry Concept
July 27, 2022
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Municipality of Skagway

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cc: Randy Ruaro, Chief of Staff & Special Council to the Governor
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Representative Sara Hannan
Ryan Anderson, DOT&PF Commissioner
Dana Herndon, Delegation Representative