

Mayor's Report 10_6_2022

Municipal Election

The passing of the revenue bond vote is a clear mandate from the community to continue working toward Ore Dock replacement. Skagway's short and long-term future depends on maintaining the construction timeline. Some of tonight's agenda items are directly related to maintaining this timeline, and local voters have spoken. That being said, I encourage everyone in the community to remain engaged during the ongoing design process.

Thank you to all of the Assembly candidates that ran for office and congratulations to Dan Henry and Orion Hanson, who will provide two strong voices at the table. It was refreshing to hear every candidate express their opinions and ideas without devolving their campaign into personal attacks on other candidates.

Special thanks to our election volunteers and Borough Clerk Burnham, who did a stellar job handling the election, as always.

Approval of Preliminary Engineering Agreement with DOT&PF

This is the culmination of almost three years of work. Thank you to the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) for moving this forward. The goal, as approved by the Assembly in 2019, has always been to seek municipal control of the Broadway (Ferry) Peninsula. It was 2019 when I first visited DOT&PF in Juneau to discuss how we could make this happen. The original idea was to pursue the development of a multi-use dock on the Broadway Peninsula to accommodate both ferries and cruise ships, but after the Municipality hosted DOT&PF officials in Skagway in June of this year, discussions turned to the feasibility of developing a new ferry dock/terminal on the Ore Peninsula.

This preliminary engineering agreement would implement a 50/50 cost split between the MOS and DOT&PF to share costs for 20% design of this potential project. If the community and DOT&PF ultimately decide to move in this direction, the Broadway Peninsula would be freed up and Skagway would increase its waterfront by 40%, allowing us to explore the future development of the Broadway Peninsula.

The magnitude of this opportunity cannot be overstated, and I urge the Assembly to approve this agreement. If you have any contact with DOT&PF officials, thank them for their perseverance.

Rockslide Mitigation

There are multiple agenda items related to the rockslide, already outlined in the Manager's Report. Obviously, these items are timeline sensitive. Our goal is to ensure we can berth Post-Panamax ships in 2023 while keeping everyone safe, so I urge the Assembly to approve these measures.

Visit to Washington DC

As we all know, I declared a State of Emergency on August 4th, and Governor Dunleavy recognized the volatile nature of our situation and also declared a state of emergency. The next step is to get a federal declaration so that federal monies can be made available.

On October 15, I am traveling to Washington DC with Municipal Lobbyist John Walsh. We have meetings scheduled with Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski's team to discuss the rockslide situation in detail along with some other relevant topics, including grant possibilities for future development. I've also reached out to Yukon Government officials to find out how I can use my time in DC to strengthen our relationship.

As a preliminary, the Skagway team met Tuesday with Senator Murkowski's staff via Zoom and we received some clear direction on how to pursue the federal emergency declaration. The meeting was highly productive and I'm hopeful we will be successful in this endeavor.

Because of the trip to DC, I will not be physically present at the October 20 Assembly meeting. Vice Mayor Hanson will run the meeting. However, I intend to call in.