

Mayor's Report 9_15_2022

Rockslide Report

Some of the data concerning the rockslide area is starting to come in. As this information is processed, we will have a better idea of how mitigating risk may be possible. I'm hopeful that the Governor will declare an emergency, which would free up funds to help pay for whatever plan the community decides to implement.

The bigger question is how will we ensure that 4 berths are active in 2023. With help from White Pass, we have an actionable plan that will put post-Panamax ships at the Ore Dock, which allows two smaller ships to dock at Railroad while avoiding the primary slide area. Plan details are included in the meeting packet. It appears as though permitting agencies will help fast-track this process, which is fantastic news and ensures we will have a solid 2023 cruise ship season.

Revenue Bond Vote

The rockslide issue is unrelated to the revenue bond vote. The revenue bond will finance the construction of the new dock (moving toward 60% design) that will replace the Ore Dock. It's taken two years of highly transparent public process to bring the design to this point. It was thoroughly vetted through the Ports & Harbors Advisory Board and they recommended that the Assembly approve the design.

The revenue bond ensures that users pay for the dock so that burden doesn't fall on Skagway residents. On September 22nd, there will be a Town Hall at AB Hall to discuss the revenue bond and answer questions about how it works and how port tariffs will pay the bond down. If the community approves the bond, work on the new dock can continue as planned and be ready to use beginning in 2024. The financial security of this community depends on maintaining this timeline. Permitting the project takes a long time and is already underway.

It's important to note that the revenue bonds could be used for any dock construction plan, so regardless of how one feels about the current design, it's important to pass this measure so the community can continue to compete with other Southeast Alaska port communities.

Obviously, I support voting YES on the revenue bond measure on October 4th. Get the facts and make your decision accordingly. I am always happy to answer questions on this topic.

Senator Murkowski Visit

Last week, Senator Murkowski visited Skagway. This is a very rare honor for Skagway and I personally thanked the Senator for taking the time to pay us a visit and see the rockslide area with her own eyes. At the Senator's request, I assembled a roundtable meeting that included representatives from the school, National Park Service, Skagway Traditional Council, Fire Department, and local business leaders. The dialog was healthy and the Senator is now well versed in a variety of local issues. Thank you to all that attended.

Sales Tax Holiday

This measure will hopefully bring some financial relief to our year-round residents this winter.

Bear Awareness and Harvest Day Proclamation

It's bear season once again. Let's all do our best to remain bear aware. There are flyers around town explaining how to remain bear aware. One of the best ways is to participate in Harvest Day at the start of October because bears love ripe fruit. And really, who doesn't?

- Andrew Cremata