

Proposed by:	Assemblymember Hanson
Attorney Review:	12/1/2021
Vote:	6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Absent

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 21-38R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRIC FERRY PILOT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway has enjoyed a long-standing, mutual relationship with the Alaska Marine Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly and cooperatively develop a multi-use dock to accommodate both Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) vessels and cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy and environmentally sound development are high priorities of the Municipality of the Skagway Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has undertaken a major Port of Skagway re-development planning effort which includes electrification of the Port; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed and President Biden has signed into law the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), which (among other things) seeks to improve transportation options and reduce greenhouse emissions, and which authorizes \$250 million for an electric or low-emitting ferry pilot program, with at least one pilot program to be conducted in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, within the Skagway Borough there has been significant investment in hydroelectric power, dating back to 1902, including three existing installations (Goat Lake, Lower Lake and Kasidaya) with a combined seasonal capacity of eight megawatts, and Burro Creek which has a future potential capacity of seven megawatts; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality is pursuing additional renewable energy connectivity with its Canadian neighbors, the Yukon Territorial Government and Yukon Energy; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted by the U.S. National Park Service and other local, state, and federal agencies demonstrate that the community of Skagway experiences significant levels of air pollution as a result of cruise ship emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality wishes to preserve the economic corridor between Skagway and Haines, Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory known as the highly popular Golden Circle Tour; and

WHEREAS, dayboat ferry service between Skagway, Haines, and Juneau has proven to be an efficient and essential component of the independent visitor market and supports a robust visitor economy for the communities; it is a vital highway link between the state capital and the roads from the two northern Lynn Canal communities of Skagway and Haines that connect Southeast Alaska to Canada and the Interior of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Skagway relies on consistent ferry service for travel to Juneau and other Southeast communities, for health care, student education, and sport activities and commercial goods and services; and

WHEREAS, over the past ten years, the Municipality has commissioned four consultant studies that document the high traffic and demand on Skagway ferry routes and support the concept of a successful independent Skagway ferry operated by the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the relatively shorter route distances and the abundance of hydro-electric power in northern Lynn Canal are ideally suited to the operation of an electric or hybrid electric ferry;

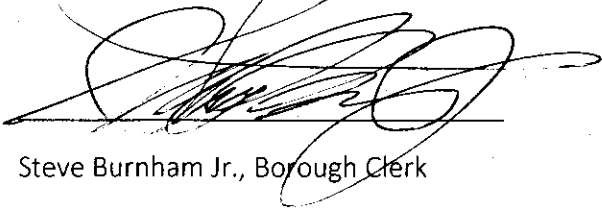
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Skagway hereby establishes the Skagway Electric Ferry Pilot Program for the purpose of studying the feasibility, planning, and potentially developing an electric or hybrid-electric, low-emitting ferry to be based in Skagway and augment ferry service routes between Skagway and its neighbor communities of Juneau and Haines.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of December 2021, by the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska.



Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:



Steve Burnham Jr., Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

