

# Port Director Update April 23, 2024

**Ore Peninsula Redevelopment Project Update:** The cruise float repairs taking place in Ketchikan are wrapping up. Transpac expects to have everything completed by April 27. Manager Ryan has been working with AMAK Towing and Elliot Bay Design Group to develop coordinate a tow plan and should be wrapped up middle of the week. The schedule currently shows the float being towed May 2-8, but we are hopeful that we might recover a few of few days with the float repairs wrapping up early.

In Skagway, the project is making good progress. Dolphin cutoffs, caps, coatings, and finishes wrapped up on April 17. The concrete trestle work is ongoing and expected to wrap up on May 7. Once the float arrives in Skagway it will be floated into place and work will begin on the installation. As of today, we are scheduled to welcome the first ship at the Ore Dock as scheduled on Tuesday, May 14.

**Rockslide Update:** Shannon & Wilson and Rock Supremacy wrapped up our preseason rockslide maintenance activities on April 11. Repairs to the mid-slope mesh and the broken cable anchor on the lower draped mesh as on South Chute of the Main Slide (SC) were completed. New draped mesh was installed on North Chute of the Main Slide (NC) when scaling was completed.

Shannon & Wilson submitted a slope evaluation proposal that was considered and approved by the Assembly at the April 18th meeting. The scope of work encompassed in the proposal includes a hazard evaluation of the wider view of the slope risks above the WP&YR dock.

**Seatrade:** From April 8th to 11th, 2024, I, accompanied by Mayor Bass and Deputy Manager Deach, represented Skagway at the Seatrade Cruise Global event in Miami. Our engagements at the event encompassed a series of productive meetings and networking opportunities within the cruise industry:

- Productive meetings were held with key stakeholders including Royal Caribbean, Disney, Holland America (Princess/Carnival), Crystal, and Norwegian, fostering valuable connections and discussions.
- Informal networking sessions provided opportunities to engage with additional industry partners such as the Port of Seattle, Port of Vancouver, City and Borough of Juneau, Global Ports Holding, Bermello Ajamil & Partners, Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), and Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

Discussions focused on various Skagway projects and initiatives, including:

- The Ore Peninsula Redevelopment Project
- Updates on the status of the BRIC Grant
- Preseason rockslide maintenance activities
- Berthing Agreements
- Operational plans for the forthcoming 2024 season

In addition to these discussions, we extended invitations to each cruise line to participate in our Tourism Best Management Practices program, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable tourism practices. Furthermore, we shared a comprehensive Crew Welcome Guide designed to enhance the experience of ship crew members visiting Skagway during the upcoming summer season.

**FY25 Harbor Grant Resolutions:** Each year, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) Board asks the membership of AAHPA to adopt resolutions supporting various legislative actions that they believe will help to improve Alaska's port and harbor infrastructure and operations statewide. The 50/50 Municipal Harbor Grant and Increasing the maximum Harbor facility grant fund award are two of these legislative actions that AAHPA is looking for support on. Both resolutions are on the agenda this evening for consideration of a recommendation to the Assembly.

**BRIC Update:** On March 1, we submitted Skagway's response to FEMA's RFI #1 to the State of Alaska, who we are a sub-applicant to. To date we haven't had any additional communications or requests for information. We have reached out but do not have any additional information at this time.

**FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant:** We began work on our application for the FY24 PIDP grant through the federal Maritime Administration (MARAD). We have previously applied for the FY22 and FY23 PIDP Grants. While we were not successful, we received positive feedback from our FY23 application and will use that to further develop our current application for 2024.

The requested PIDP funding will enable the Municipality of Skagway to undergo significant infrastructure enhancements. This project entails the construction of a Roll-on/Roll-off (RORO) freight transfer ramp, relocation of fuel headers, establishment of a vehicle access bridge to the fuel headers, and the addition of shore power for tugboats and a jib crane for the movement of supplies. These upgrades will streamline operations, reducing loading and unloading times, while also mitigating congestion and conflicts with other vessels in port. Upgrades to the RORO freight transfer ramp and fuel header will meet modern standards, facilitating maintenance and safety measures, along with implementing spill prevention infrastructure for environmental safety. Additionally, this upgrade creates a regular berth for tractor tugs like the Anna T that regularly service freight barges, fuel barges, cruise ships and other vessels calling the Port of Skagway, year-round.