



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Reuben Yost, Deputy Commissioner

3132 Channel Drive
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
Main: 907.465.3900
Fax: 907.586.8365
dot.state.ak.us

July 23, 2014

Honorable Mark Jensen and Assembly Members
Petersburg Borough
P.O. Box 329
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Dear Mayor Jensen and Assembly Members:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) recently considered a proposal by North End Ferry Authority to adapt South Mitkof Ferry Terminal for use by its vessel MV Rainforest Islander (currently MV Silver Eagle), which is to restore passenger/vehicle ferry service between Coffman Cove, Wrangell, and South Mitkof in Spring 2015.

The department is very interested in this project, which will provide useful public ferry transportation and connecting highway transit, and would have utilized South Mitkof Terminal for the purpose intended by its construction with federal aid and state funding. However, it has been determined that the cost of adapting South Mitkof Terminal for this purpose will be substantial, and not possible for the state to fund at this time. The department is also concerned that we not modify the South Mitkof Terminal in a way that would preclude its possible use by the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) and Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA) vessels.

The North End Ferry Authority has advised that because its vessel is a landing craft, it is alternatively capable of loading and unloading passengers and vehicles at the Banana Point Launch Ramp. This facility is owned and operated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), assisted by the Petersburg Borough. I have been informed that the Ferry Authority will request Petersburg Borough support for its application to DNR, in a presentation to the Borough Assembly's meeting August 4, 2014. I understand that the Ferry Authority intends this to be an interim use, and will continue its efforts to relocate at a future date.

I want to notify the Borough Assembly of DOT&PF's strong support for the North End Ferry Authority's proposal to use Banana Point Launch Ramp as an interim ferry terminal. This service will re-establish passenger/vehicle traffic between Prince of Wales Island, Wrangell, and Petersburg. It will also assist DOT&PF in determining the appropriate vessel for ultimate use of

South Mitkof terminal; ideally this will be a vessel capable of using existing terminal facilities and equipment, without modification.

I understand the North End Ferry Authority's proposal to the Borough Assembly will furnish information on its organization and intended service, along with a site plan detailing its proposed use of the Banana Point Launch Ramp, related access, and parking and staging areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Reuben Yost
Deputy Commissioner