



July 24, 2014

Honorable Mayor and Assembly
Petersburg Borough
P. O. Box 329
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

assembly@petersburgak.gov

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The North End Ferry Authority plans to restore passenger/vehicle ferry service between Coffman Cove, Wrangell, and South Mitkof in Spring 2015. This service will operate four times a week, year around; mini-coach service on Mitkof and Prince of Wales Highways and in Wrangell will connect with all ferry arrivals and departures. This service is described in "Business Plan Summary: D", attached as Exhibit 1.

South Mitkof Ferry Terminal has been the preferred Mitkof Island terminus for this service, and accordingly North End Ferry Authority proposed to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) that the terminal be adapted to berth the intended vessel; this vessel is much smaller than MV Prince of Wales class vessels for which the terminal was designed. ADOT&PF seriously considered this proposal, consulting on conceptual design of an adaptive pontoon, and providing a cost estimate. However, ADOT&PF was not able to proceed with adaptation both because of its cost and the possibility it would preclude terminal use by Alaska Marine Highway System and Inter-island Ferry Authority vessels. The pontoon concept and cost estimate are described in "Conceptual Mooring Arrangement: S. Mitkof Terminal", included along with a similar concept for Coffman Cove in Exhibit 2, attached.

The vessel to be used in the Coffman Cove, Wrangell, South Mitkof ferry service is a landing craft, which can load and unload passengers and vehicles at small craft launching ramps. Because South Mitkof Ferry Terminal will not be available, North End Ferry Authority would like to apply to use Banana Point Launch Ramp as an interim ferry terminal. As you know, the Banana Point facility is owned and operated by Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), assisted the Petersburg Borough, and DNR will determine whether this use is permissible. A site plan illustrating the proposed use at probable peak occupancy, "Banana Point @ 1353h", is attached as Exhibit 3. This plan shows the ferry just arrived on berth with a full vehicle deck load for unloading; another full deck load is staged for loading, and a mini-coach, freight trucks,

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and walk-on passengers' pickup/drop-off vehicles are also parked. The site plan illustrates heavy use at the same time by boat trailers and related vehicles, and it is believed these uses are compatible on the site. Peak use, during which the launch ramp would be occupied by the vessel, would last one-half hour, preceded by a half hour when ferry traffic would arrive at the site, and followed by another half hour when ferry traffic would leave the site; the launching ramp would not be used by the ferry nor obstructed during the precede and following half hours. Therefore the total time the site would be affected by ferry terminal use would be one and one half hours, initially four times a week; during this time small craft put in/takeout via the launch ramp would only be affected for one half hour.

The North End Ferry Authority requests the Petersburg Borough Assembly's support for the proposed use of Banana Point Launch Ramp as an interim ferry terminal. This use will facilitate resumption of ferry service between Prince of Wales Island, Wrangell, and Petersburg via South Mitkof, with substantial benefit to area residents and visitors. The impacts to other uses of Banana Point are believed to be minimal; the North End Ferry Authority intends to be a considerate user of the site, and will continue its efforts to develop a permanent terminal elsewhere.

Borough Public Works Director Karl Hagerman and Assistant Director Chris Cotta greatly assisted preparation of this proposal which is sincerely appreciated.

I will attend the Borough Assembly meeting August 4, to answer your questions about this proposal, and furnish additional information as requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
NORTH END FERRY AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Miller", written in a cursive style.

Kent Miller
Manager

Exhibits:
Business Plan Summary
Conceptual Mooring Arrangement, S. Mitkof Terminal
Banana Point @ 1353 h.