



## Essential Air Service Key Points:

Alaska Airlines has been serving Alaskans for 85 years with safe, reliable service. Because of our commitment to serving the communities in the state, including those in Southeast Alaska that are especially dependent on air service, Alaska Airlines is seeking a continuation of Essential Air Service (EAS) support for our service to Cordova, Yakutat, Gustavus, Petersburg and Wrangell, Alaska. The EAS program's support for Alaska Airlines helps to ensure that these small communities will continue to receive a level of scheduled air service that meets the needs of both residents and businesses in Southeast Alaska.

The new EAS agreement would provide jet service from May 2017 through April 2019. During this two-year period, Alaska Airlines will be retiring our 737-400 passenger combi fleet and shifting to the use of newer 737-700 all-passenger aircraft, in addition to a fleet of newer 737-700 freighter aircraft. The freighter aircraft will boost Alaska Airlines' cargo capacity in the state of Alaska and particularly Southeast Alaska.

### Additional points of consideration:

- Current passenger service pattern is maintained from the start of the bid through September of 2017.
- During this new EAS period, Alaska Airlines will continue to use a 737-jet aircraft.
- With the shift away from combi aircraft to all passenger aircraft, available passenger seats will increase in Southeast Alaska by 18 percent.
- Current service and frequency levels will remain the same for passenger service.
- Alaska Airlines' flights to Cordova and Yakutat provide single-plane service to both Anchorage, Juneau and Seattle; similarly, Alaska's Wrangell and Petersburg flights provide single-plane service to Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan and Seattle.
- The air service from Southeast Alaska communities to hubs in Anchorage, Juneau and Seattle provides easy access to Alaska Airlines extensive route network, linking Southeast Alaska to points throughout North America.
- Alaska Airlines' service to Southeast Alaska is a critical link for the tourism and commercial fishing/seafood processing industries that are essential to the economies of communities in this region of the state of Alaska.
- Alaska Airlines' investment in required navigation performance (RNP) flight technology allows enhanced access to airports in Southeast Alaska during periods of inclement weather.
- Alaska Airlines' service to multiple destinations through Southeast Alaska is a great benefit to travelers when flights are occasionally unable to land in a particular EAS community due to weather. The availability of other nearby airports served by Alaska Airlines enables efficient re-accommodation of affected passengers.
- An all freighter fleet of 737-700 aircraft will bring significant cargo carrying capability to benefit these Southeast Alaska communities' efforts to increase shipments of seafood products from their locations.

