

Debra Thompson

From: Bill Tremblay <brtrembla@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Assembly
Cc: Stephen Giesbrecht; Debra Thompson
Subject: Kake Road Follow-up

Dear Assembly Members;

I listened to your discussion about the Kake Road on KFSK. There were a couple of points raised by Assembly members about the AMHS's future that reminded me of past efforts to "connect" southeast Alaska better.

During Gov. Murkowski's administration; there was a plan brought forward to connect the communities with more roads and smaller shuttle ferries. The Petersburg/Kake Road was proposed then; along with the concept of driving the length of Mitkof Island to catch the ferry at the the south end of the island. Other roads were proposed to the southern end of Wrangell Island connecting to a ferry to the Cleveland Peninsula to then drive to another ferry terminal that would eventually get you to a ferry to Ketchikan. About the only item that was built to support this system was the south Mitkof Highway terminal that was build to accommodate the IFA and the AMHS.

If this system had been built, it could have resembled the system Assemblymember Marohl saw in Norway. Other European countries seem to do a better job supporting ferries that we do here in southeast Alaska. A lot may have to do with the number of people who use these ferries to commute or to move commerce. It may also have to do with the fact that these countries pay higher taxes to support this infrastructure. Alaska relies primarily on oil money to support government services like the ferries and roads. The State of Alaska has the lowest taxes to support road maintenance in the country (which haven't been raised since the Eisenhower Administration). In that respect; I guess we don't get what we don't pay for.

Again; for three years community members went to meetings held by the Federal Highway Administration with the State Department of Transportation and determined the Petersburg - Kake Road did not meet a purpose or need for either community. Our State has higher priorities than this road.

Bill Tremblay
P.O. Box 662
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-4461