



June 10, 2014

Mr. Pat Kemp, Commissioner
State of Alaska DOT&PF
PO Box 112500, MS-2500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Re: Support of Proposed RWIS site at Blaquerie Point, South Mitkof Island

Dear Mr. Kemp,

I am taking the opportunity to write this letter in support of establishing a permanent Road Weather Information System (RWIS) site at Blaquerie Point on the South end of Mitkof Island, adjacent to State owned Mitkof Highway. A similar site was established by way of USFS Resource Advisory Committee funding many years ago but this site is in disrepair and mostly inaccessible for maintenance tasks. The prospect of ADOT moving the components of the old station to a permanent station adjacent to Mitkof Highway, in addition to new monitoring equipment and a webcam, has several benefits to the communities of Petersburg and Wrangell, as well as to the ADOT M&O staff in Petersburg.

As you surely know, Southeast Alaska weather can change rapidly and stations as proposed by ADOT will allow residents and visitors to access current weather information on the internet – as is the standard for information dissemination in this day and age. In the past, many local residents have depended on the availability of weather information from the South end of Mitkof Island to ensure their safety when seeking to travel via land or water in that area. It is a surety that this project would be well utilized and appreciated by local residents. Additionally, as many school aged children travel by small vessel to and from Wrangell and Petersburg via South Mitkof, their safety will be better met by school officials and parents having access to relevant weather information in this area prior to such travel. Moving the station next to the highway will also allow for easier access and maintenance which also supports a highly reliable service to the public. Lastly, local State M&O staff will be able to utilize the RWIS site to monitor road conditions and plan maintenance activities in support of public safety at all times of the year.

The Borough sees ADOTPF's work at the site as an essential public safety service for residents of Petersburg and Wrangell and is fully supportive of ADOT's plans to set up a permanent RWIS site at this location.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lagoudakis
Vice Mayor

Cc: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager
Al Clough, ADOTPF Regional Director
Jack Stickel, RWIS program

Borough Administration
PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4519 Fax (907)772-3759
www.petersburgak.gov