



Statewide Alaska Marine Highway System

Business and Operational Plan Initiative

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

- Chair: Dennis Watson - Craig
- Dave Kensinger - Petersburg
- Greg Wakefield - Anchorage
- Elizabeth Bolling - Ketchikan
- Shannon Adamson - Juneau
- Josh Howes - Anchorage
- Will Ware - Juneau
- Sharon Hildebrand - Fairbanks
- John Whiddon, SWAMC - Kodiak
- Dan Kelly - Ketchikan
- Michael Anderson - Cordova
- Dennis Bousson - Skagway
- Staff: Robert Venables

PROJECT TIMELINE

The "AMHS Reform Project"

- Phase I: Mission, goals and governance recommendations.**
Completion expected by December 2016
- Phase II: Twenty-five Year Ferry System Operating Plan.**
January 2017 through December 2017

Project Background

In Alaska marine transportation linkages are important to the greater economy. Because of this, the health of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is vital to economic development in the state, and the AMHS is at a critical juncture. The impact of declining oil production and prices on the state budget means that the ferry system must determine a way to maintain services while decreasing costs. In May 2016, Governor Bill Walker signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Southeast Conference to undertake a statewide planning process aimed at improving the long-term viability of AMHS. Southeast Conference is working on a two-phase approach that will identify structural changes to improve the operability and financial health of the state ferry system.

The "AMHS Reform Project" - Designing a Strategic Operating Plan for AMHS

Steering Committee Led: A steering committee comprised of Alaskans from across the state will oversee development of the plan, and the process will involve broad public engagement and multiple stakeholder meetings.

Phase I: Mission goals and governance recommendations. The first phase of the project will identify alternative governance models for the state ferry system, recommend the model best suited to operate the system in an economically optimal way that meets user needs, and explore options to install an empowered governance board. Elliott Bay Design Group and McDowell Group have teamed together to work on this phase.

Phase II: Strategic Operations and Business Plan: A new ferry system operating plan will be developed using the findings and recommendations from phase I in order to ensure a financially sustainable Alaska Marine Highway System for at least the next 25 years. Phase II includes a fleet renewal plan and will explore potential partnerships with the private sector and revenue opportunities to allow forward funding of operations and greater fiscal certainty.



Participate in creating the vision for Alaska's marine highway
Find out more at www.seconference.org/transportation-issues