

Passenger Fee Public Comments

The CBJ Code requires the Manager to forward all public comments on the proposed uses of passenger fee funds to the Assembly for consideration. The Assembly is not required to take individual action on these comments.

Per Title 69, Chapter 20.120(b)(3):

The manager shall forward all submittals, cruise line industry comments, board comments, public comments, and the manager's final recommendations to the Assembly Finance Committee for consideration. The Finance Committee will forward the final list of marine passenger fee proceeds' projects to the Assembly for consideration during its deliberations on the annual City and Borough budget.

From: [jared.cure](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Bathrooms and Brevity
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 3:04:29 PM

Alex,

Build bathrooms.

Jared

From: [Peter Bangs](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Comment on marine passenger fees
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 5:42:00 PM

Hi Alexandria. I've noticed an increasing number of cruise ship passengers on local trails in the last several years, perhaps it's spill over as the glacier permits are at capacity. In any case, I'd like to suggest investing in improvements in trails and trail access. For example, would it be possible to pave the pothole-ridden end of Industrial Blvd (where people access the wetland trail) and parking area? I've also noticed there is more and more litter on the trails - ranging from water bottles to human waste. Perhaps a seasonal employee could be hired to regularly walk the trails to pick up trash and other waste?

Peter

From: [Caitlin Stern](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Comments on use of passenger fees
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 7:48:07 PM

Dear Ms. Pierce,

I am writing to comment on the recommendations you submitted for the use of marine passenger fees for FY2024.

I strongly support the use of these fees for dock electrification. As a resident of downtown, I have a front row seat from which to view the toxic clouds of pollution emitted continuously from docked cruise ships, and feel a great deal of worry about the effects of this pollution on my children's health. I would very much like to see all docked cruise ships connected to electricity while in port in order to reduce the pollution they emit so close to Juneau residences.

Thank you for your time,
Caitlin

From: [Laveda](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: cruise ship fees
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 6:18:55 AM

Hello,

I read this article: https://www.ktoo.org/2024/02/22/juneau-residents-can-comment-on-proposed-cruise-ship-passenger-fee-projects/?fbclid=IwAR0s_jwyj3T4_n72bkx9Ta4NN2apRu_iFM1A2yI97ybX00-XWhxI6EcWNXE

Here are my suggestions/comments.

As a retiree of Bartlett, I know how SUPER busy Registration, ER, Same Day Surgery, and Med/Surg, is when the tourists and cruise ship employees, come! The other thing that happens is an increased need for medivac facilitation. The hospital should be getting some of these passenger fees (if they're not already) to help the costs incurred in patient care, (BRH staff time, which include maintenance staff)

Transit system, and all they're doing to get tourists around the city, should get some of the passenger fees, too. If they're dropping passengers off at the Dredge Lake Road, there needs to be an enhanced bus stop, built and a better crosswalk (maybe an overhead crossing) at Backloop and Loop Rd. The bike path ends shortly after the passengers get off the bus. Cruise ship passenger fees would be a good use for this purpose.

The sidewalks downtown can't handle more people. From 10-6, shut South Franklin and Front street down to cars and make it a pedestrian only area; or whatever time frame works best. When I'm downtown, and the sidewalk is packed with people, the first thing I do is go onto the street to get around. The tourists do the same thing. I'm sure some of these fees can go toward that, too.

As a person that likes to visit downtown, bathrooms are a BIG issue! The city hall bathroom is scummy and usually there's local people loitering around and in the bathroom. At least every time I go in there, there is. Between the tram bathrooms, parking garage bathrooms and City Hall bathrooms, it's not enough to handle the amount of tourists and staff that come to town. More regular maintenance of the facilities is a must! North Franklin could use a set of bathrooms. Maybe off the North Franklin parking lot? That would be an excellent use of fees.

If I thought about it more, I'm sure I could find other needs for the passenger fees!

Thanks,
Laveda

From: [Janell Mountcastle](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Cc: [Janell Mountcastle](#)
Subject: FY25 Marine Passenger Fees
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:55:21 AM

Hello,

Can it be used on roads to help tourism traffic?

For example, to build a road that goes from behind Fred Meyer's to Mendenhall Loop Road.

More city bus routes and better pay for drivers because when the Forest Service runs out of passes to the glacier the buses fill up with tourists and the locals cannot use them for getting to work, groceries and medical appointments.

How could it be used for housing? We have such a housing crisis. Could it build housing for tourism workers? Dormitory style maybe that would then relieve other housing for residents?

Could it be used to start a Fairbnb coop that gives back 50% of their profits to the community?

[Fairbnb.coop - sustainable B&B, rooms, bnb and vacation rentals](#)

Thank you for your consideration!

Janell Mountcastle

J.Mountcastle@yahoo.com
(317)213-8510

From: [Jen LaRoe](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Marine passenger fee proposals
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 9:14:03 PM

Is this the only way to submit comments about the proposals? Not very clear on the website or in the KTOO article. It is also not very equitable access.

I am a previous affordable housing advocate and professional, working for local housing development projects. I am opposed to the JEDC proposal for over \$23 million for seasonal worker housing. There is a shortage of affordable housing in our community for many many years, and this proposal is wrong in many ways, but I want to make two main points.

1. Building housing for use only part of the year for summer "tourist" workforce is not sustainable for the community and those full-time residents who are struggling to find affordable housing. When residents have to spend more than 30% of their income on housing, they are unable to afford other necessities.
2. JEDC is NOT an appropriate housing development or management organization. If a project like this were to pencil out for the whole community, then it should be done by an organization with experience, and managed by a housing entity, not the JEDC.

Sincerely,
Jen LaRoe
5134 Glacier Highway
Juneau

From: [Tracy LaBarge](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Marine Passenger Fee
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:40:10 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

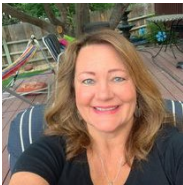
Hi Alex,

I wanted to request to fill in the open space in front of the crab shack as an improvement.

Also add more restrooms / garbage area behind the Visitors Center or over near the new bus parking. We have 1 small bathroom and get absolutely crushed during the season with people coming in just to use the bathroom. We don't have that capacity.

Third suggestion would be to make the dumpster in front of the Port Building a compactor type that crushes garbage. Our dump is overflowing as it is. We haul our own garbage several times a day to the second lot, to a dumpster. May garbage cost last year was \$54k! We are trying to recycle and compost, but it has been difficult with little space. It would be nice to I would be happy to pay to use that.

Thanks



Tracy LaBarge

Owner, Tracy's King Crab Shack

Phone: 907-790-2722 (CRAB)

Mobile: 907-723-2004

Email: tracy@kingcrabshack.com

PO BOX 21082

Juneau, AK 99802

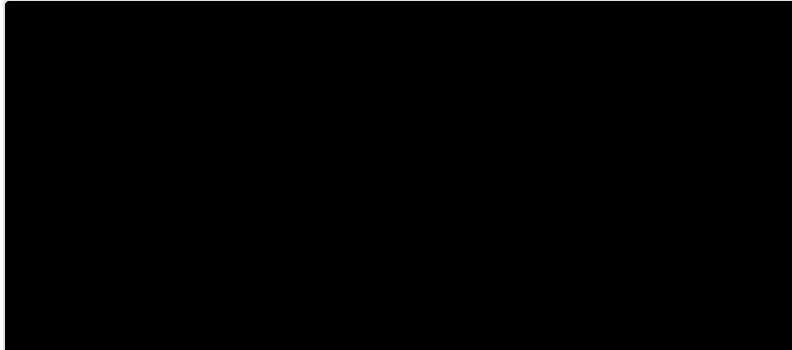
www.kingcrabshack.com



From: [G Lee](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Passenger Fees Proposal comments through March 25.
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 2:16:21 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

[Juneau residents can comment on proposed cruise ship passenger fee projects](#)



Juneau residents can comment on proposed cruise ship passenger fee projects

Clarise Larson

Residents have until March 25 to give feedback on proposals like free public Wi-Fi downtown, increased bus servi...

Build a driverless dedicated light rail to Mendenhall Glacier, starter link from Mendenhall Mall to Mendenhall Glacier, or downtown to Bartlett/Fish Hatchery; and gradually adding extensions, with stops at Fred Meyer, Costco.

High speed WiFi downtown through a VPN to prevent torrent downloads. Proton free VPN offers this through one connection per account, connect through the router.

The fee should be renegotiated higher like \$100 and includes transportation to Mendenhall Glacier owned and operated by the city and optional; a performance with the Juneau Symphony, or Juneau Jazz & Classics at Marine Park or Juneau Douglas High School auditorium; and not only just benefit the tourism industry, it could be used to benefit the local community, like increased transit, shore power, more housing, better hospital facilities, long-term care, more senior housing with Passivhaus certification for all new, retrofit, existing construction projects. Increases costs of 10-15% with benefits of better insulation of sound, temperature, using less energy over the life of the building by making it almost completely airtight.

G. Lee

500px.com/gl

From: [Dave Hanna](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Passenger funds
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:53:25 PM

Alex

If we are going to expand bus service to the glacier stopping at the back loop intersection, we need to install some vault toilets in the area. The poor folks that live around there are constantly inundated with requests from people who desperately need to use a toilet. AEL&P has a lot there and there is also land right next to the bus shelter. It could be seasonal use only. Please consider this.

Thanks,

Dave Hanna
907-723-1902

From: [Kris Benson](#)
To: [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: Proposed Expenditures with Passenger Fee Revenue
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 1:33:28 PM

Dear Ms. Pierce:

I support the table of proposed expenditures for FY 25 using cruise ship passenger fees. In particular, the Whale Blubber Cortisol study is very important. We know anecdotally that whale behavior changed when we had no cruise ships due to the pandemic, which makes one worry about the future for both the whales and the whale watching industry. The growth in whale watching boats has been tremendously fast and it is critical to understand what risks might be involved as soon as possible.

All of the other proposals are sound and merit funding, with the exception of four line items that are for security and restroom maintenance at private docks. How is subsidizing the private docks by the city justified? I think the very profitable corporations that own the private docks can well afford to maintain their own security and restrooms.

Thank you for soliciting feedback,
Kristine Benson
145 Behrends Ave
Juneau, AK



RENEWABLE
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 22227
Juneau, AK 99802

renewablejuneau.org
juneaucarbonoffset.com

March 5, 2024

Ms. Alexandra Pierce, Tourism Manager
City & Borough of Juneau

Subject: Marine Passenger Fee Recommendations

Dear Ms. Pierce,

Renewable Juneau, a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to move Juneau towards a clean energy future, supports three projects for 2024 Marine Passenger Fee (MPF) funding. These include:

- 1) CBJ 16B dock electrification;
- 2) a downtown electric bus circulator;
- 3) an initial contribution to a Tourism Clean Energy revolving loan fund and incentive program.

These requests support community goals, as laid out in the Juneau Climate Action Plan and the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy. They also align with the local Clean Port Initiative that the Juneau Commission on Sustainability proposed last year to advance Visitor Industry Task Force Recommendations, and they reinforce Juneau's active participation in the Green Corridor Initiative.

Reducing traffic congestion and dock electrification were ranked as the public's top two priorities in the most recent Juneau Tourism Survey (McKinley Research Group, 2023). Over twenty years ago, Juneau led the world in providing shore power to cruise ships at the Franklin Dock. However, that leadership has faded since the 16B docks were built in 2015 with conduit for shore power that was never installed, even as the majority of cruise ships that visit Juneau are now equipped to hook up to this renewable and clean energy source. We are heartened that dock electrification is once again on the docket and encourage you, the City Manager, and the Assembly, to provide strong leadership in moving this measure forward.

Similarly, the idea of a downtown circulator has simmered for years with no real progress. We support an all-electric circulator and providing funding to Capital Transit to make this idea a reality. The resulting reductions in congestion, improved visitor experience, reduction of emissions, and improved air quality are all strongly supported by Juneau residents.

Lastly, creating and providing seed funding for a revolving loan program for tourism operators to invest in cleaner energy equipment is an important step in moving Juneau towards a more sustainable future.

Officers

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RENEWABLE JUNEAU

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juneaucarbonoffset.com

We would like to thank the Assembly for their active engagement in and funding for tourism management. Tourism is important to our community's economy but can negatively impact our quality of life if not carefully managed. In particular, we would like to thank the Assembly for clarifying the role of the tourism manager and city manager in overseeing tourism policy, including management of the cruise ship docks.

Our community has made real progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving residents money through multiple fronts, including building out electric vehicle charging infrastructure and providing resources and incentives for homeowners to replace aging fossil fuel heating systems with efficient, electric air source heat pumps. Let's continue this good work by eliminating some of the climate-warming emissions that tourism produces, while improving public health, providing economic benefits, and enhancing the quality for all who call Juneau home.

Sincerely,

Sally Saddler
President, Renewable Juneau Board

cc:
Mayor Weldon and Juneau Assembly Members
Katie Koester, City Manager
Carl Uchytel, Port Director

Officers

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