

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.

Hello Heather,

Thank you for taking time to submit comments on the Marine Passenger Fees. Glacier Highway is controlled by DOT. We will pass along your concerns about the turn for Allen Marine.

We have received many comments about using passenger fees at the landfill. We are pretty encumbered in how we can use these funds and we signed an MOA with the cruise industry in 2022 stating that they will discontinue offloading garbage in Juneau. That said, all MPF comments will be provided to the Assembly and I'm sure the volume of feedback about the landfill will catch their attention.

Thanks,

Alexandra Pierce | Tourism Manager
City & Borough of Juneau, AK
Location: 155 South Seward Street
Cell: 907.500.8677

-----Original Message-----

From: Rorie Watt <Rorie.Watt@juneau.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: FW: Ideas on how to spend marine passenger fee funds

Public comment, FYI.

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather <hssikes@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Rorie Watt <Rorie.Watt@juneau.gov>
Subject: Ideas on how to spend marine passenger fee funds

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

Hello,

Hope you are doing well.

Two ideas on how to spend marine passenger fees in Juneau are:

1) Put in a turn lane for the Allen Marine dock by the Auke Bay ferry terminal. The traffic consistently is backed up by tourist buses. I live out the road and it is a problem every summer.

2) Help with fixing our landfill problem. If ships are dumping garbage in Juneau they can help contribute towards a solution.

Thank you,
Heather Sikes
907-789-1703

Thanks Ken, we have spent MPF funds on heavily used trails before and I will forward your comments to the Assembly.

From: Ken Post <ken.annepost@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Marine Passenger Fees

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

Hi Alix, I'm hoping that some of the fees can be devoted to maintaining the Mt. Roberts Trail. Every time I use it, I run into cruise ship passengers hiking from Basin Road to the tram. The trail would really benefit from maintenance and hardening.

Thanks,

Ken Post

To: Members of the Assembly
Rorie Watt, City Manager

February 20, 2023

I am requesting that you appropriate funds from the cruises ship head tax fund to deck over the open area surrounded by the Seawalk located on the seaward side of People's Wharf (Tracy Crab Shack and Cariloha), Effy Jewelers and Diamonds International.

This enhancement was in the plan before the covid epidemic.

With the significant growth in the cruise ship passengers embarking in Juneau this year and into the future, we need this improvement to the Seawalk to reduce congestion and improve foot traffic, resulting in more room for locals and tourists to enjoy the waterfront, especially now with the increasing number of cruise passengers.



Respectfully,

William Heumann, Owner People's Wharf

Received. Thank you, Rod.

> On Feb 19, 2023, at 2:56 PM, Rod Swope <tenakeeswope@gmail.com> wrote:

>

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

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> _____

>

> Use marine passenger fees to partially fund relocation of the city museum.

>

> Sent from my iPad

Hi Sara.

Thank you for submitting your comments! I agree it's important to supplement our city services but I meet the demands of the visitor industry. I will pass your comments along to the Assembly.

Alix

On Feb 20, 2023, at 5:10 AM, Sara Caldwell <skcaldwell@alaska.edu> wrote:

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

I would support increased staffing for the hospital, street cleaning and more housing. The emergency room especially I hear gets slammed with patients when a ship comes in. (And they hope to all get treated in time for their departure!)

Sincerely

Sara C., Douglas

Thank you Wayne,

I will forward your suggestions to the Assembly. I appreciate you taking the time to submit your suggestions.

Alix

On Feb 19, 2023, at 8:16 AM, wayne fleek <juneauguy@rocketmail.com> wrote:

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

Suggestions:

- 1] More Port-a-potties along the downtown harbor wharves, Auke Bay, North Douglas, boat launches, Basin Road parking lot, one at the Treadwell Office Historical building, and at ALL trailheads (Douglas Is. AND mainland Juneau trails) along with funds to maintain them DAILY;
- 2] control and clean-up crews weekly along Thane Road between Miners Cove and the "Rock Dump" where cruise passengers walk to/from ships;
- 3] repairs to the Basin Road trestle where damaged by rockslide this winter.

Thank you!

On Feb 20, 2023, at 5:02 PM, Ian and Linda Cryan <idcryan@gci.net> wrote:

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

Another idea.

In Oregon on a trip years ago I noticed that all the roundabouts had a piece of art on it.

This would be great for Juneau as long as the art did not impact visual aspect for drivers.

In Whitby, they also have a brochure that lists all the art around Oak Harbor, location, history etc.

Could include info on all the art work around the city walk, etc.

Given some residents feel about whale, it needs to be emphasized where funds are coming from

Linda Cryan

From: Alexandra Pierce

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:43 AM

To: Ian and Linda Cryan

Subject: RE: passenger fees

Thank you Linda,

What a lovely idea! I'll pass your suggestion along to the Assembly. I visited a sculpture park in New Orleans last year and it was fantastic. I'm actually attending a wedding on Whidby this summer and I'll be sure to visit that park.

Alix

From: Ian and Linda Cryan <idcryan@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 6:18 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: passenger fees

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

I would like to recommend that the City designate a few acres of city property (near already affected tourist traffic) as a Juneau sculpture park.

This would be a walk(handicap accessible) park with a short route and a long route with Juneau/Alaskan made sculptures along the path.

Last year I visited one on Whidby Island and it was wonderful.

This would provide another tourist attraction with a low footprint.

Would also be an attraction/walk for locals.

Should also be in area not frequent with bears and no dogs allowed.

Linda Cryan

Thank you Britten, and thank you for submitting comments on the Marine Passenger Fee program.

We're limited in how we can spend Marine Passenger Fees, however last year, we signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the cruise industry that included no longer offloading trash in Juneau. I agree that the landfill is a major issue for our community and we need to pursue creative funding sources to fix the problem. I'll pass your comments along to the Assembly.

Alix

From: Britten Niemi <snuzyouluz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: CS Passenger Fees - comments

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

Hello Alexandra -

In reviewing the list of projects to spend the \$21.5 million collected in FY24 Cruiseship Passsenger Fees, I noticed that taking care of the stinky garbage dump wasn't on the list. While I think Capital projects are fantastic and we are quite lucky to live in such a beautiful capital city, it is worth mentioning that with an eye sore/nose irritant such as the garbage dump (or Mt. Garbage as I call it), doesn't really strike me as the image we want to convey to anyone about our city. They can cover up the stink in the summer for the tourists but remember you can perfume a turd but it's still a turd, no matter how much you perfume you put on it. Lastly, pretty soon, CBJ is going to have to take down the claim "most scenic capital city in the U.S." - the "mountain" is getting higher and stinkier so my outdoorsy enthusiasm is facing the constant whiff of garbage. CBJ needs to perhaps deal with this turd and stop trying to pretty it up - it's still going to be a turd.

ABOUT OUR TOWN

Did Juneau?

Juneau is many things: a mountain town, a coastal community and the most scenic capital city in the U.S. A natural wonder, wildlife hotspot and cultural jewel, Juneau is rich in history, art, music and Native heritage. It's an outdoor enthusiast's paradise, a shopper's trove and a food lover's dream - not just the state capital, but the beating heart of Southeast Alaska.

Niemi's 3651 Tongass Boulevard Juneau, AK 99801 907-723-7714 cellular

Thank you Mary,

I will pass your comments along to the Assembly. I appreciate your comment, and I live and walk my dog downtown as well so I'm sympathetic.

Alix

From: Mary McEwen <marykmcewen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Comments for cruise passenger fees

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

Hello!

I just read the KTOO article that says you are accepting comments for ways to spend the cruise ship passenger fees.

I'd like to propose one pretty modest thing - an extra garbage can on Franklin Street somewhere between 2nd and 5th. Currently, this stretch doesn't have a can -- there's one near the Baranof (across from Spice) and then going up Franklin you don't hit another can until Capital School park, and even that's on the top, near 6th.

This may seem like reasonable trash can distance, but because there are two grassy/gravelly spots along that stretch of road that are very popular dog-walking (pooping) areas, we could really benefit from an extra can. Lots of us in the neighborhood have dogs (the Mendenhall Towers in particular has a LOT of dog owners in it) and... well... that stretch of road can get pretty funky. And it's on a pretty popular walking route from the downtown core up to the Orthodox church and toward Basin Road.

I too live and walk my dog in that corner of town. Sometimes we have to walk extra and go out of our way to reach a trash can. Not everyone does. Can we make it easier?

Thank you very much!

Mary McEwen

(907)723-6563

Thank you Ilsa, and thank you for submitting comments on the Marine Passenger Fee program.

We're limited in how we can spend Marine Passenger Fees, however last year, we signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the cruise industry that included no longer offloading trash in Juneau. I agree that the landfill is a major issue for our community and we need to pursue creative funding sources to fix the problem. I'll pass your comments along to the Assembly.

Alix

From: Ilsa Lund <Ilsa.Lund@juneau.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:24 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Cc: Cheer <grieserdm@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: City seeks comments on

Good afternoon,

The received public comment is being forwarded to Alexandra Pierce as per the instructions on the Public Information Release.

Thank you,

 **Ilsa Lund** | Administrative Assistant

Community Development Department | City & Borough of Juneau, AK

Location: 230 S. Franklin Street, 4th Floor Marine View Building

Office: 907.586.0715 ext. 4120

****Note: my email has changed to ilsa.lund@juneau.GOV on 12/5/22****



Fostering excellence in development for this generation and the next.

From: Cheer <grieserdm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:28 AM
To: PC_Comments <PC_Comments@juneau.org>
Subject: City seeks comments on

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

In re: Juneau Empire headline "City seeks comments on how to spend projected \$21.5M marine passenger fee funds"

As cruise vessels utilize the Juneau dump, I propose the city purchase incinerators to address garbage dump / landfill issues. This action would have alleviated Juneau's landfill / garbage issues years ago when the old ones needed upgrading. Or, we could continue with the current plan of growing our eagle / tourist attraction: stinky Mount Juneau.

D.Grieser

Thank you Rebecca,

I'm hoping we can make a big push on Seawalk construction over the next few years. We have been challenged by private property issues, but it looks like we have an agreement for the South end of the Seawalk and with proposed developments at the Subport and the Coast Guard property, I'm hopeful we can make progress on the north end as well. I agree it is a huge community benefit.

The North Douglas Boat Launch ramp is outside the scope of the Marine Passenger Fee program, but I believe CBJ Docks & Harbors has plans for improvements. I can request more information on those plans if you're interested.

Alix

From: Rebecca Nesheim <nesheim99801@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:38 AM

To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>

Subject: Marine Passenger Fee Funds

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

Good Day!

I read the news article about the marine passenger fee funds and would like to add a comment or two on things that I think would benefit Juneau.

First, I support expanding the seawalk. After visiting Mexico and many Caribbean islands, most communities have a seawalk (malecon) or something similar. They are popular with the locals and the tourists as they provide a safe place to walk and enjoy the views of the water. Juneau has a nice start to its seawalk but it needs to be linked so that it is one cohesive walkway.

Second, I support improving (design and construction) to the N. Douglas boat launch. Improvements here would ease the congestion that exists in Auke Bay. It would provide more accessibility to whale-watching boats. (By the way, Gastineau Guiding frequently uses the beach next to the boat launch already to load and unload passengers.) Improvements here would also provide more accessibility to charter fishermen who don't have a slip in Auke Bay or Fishermen's Bend but do rely on visitors from the cruise industry.

In my humble opinion, these are the only two projects that could really benefit from the marine passenger fee funds. Thanks for your consideration (and the Assembly's).

All the best,

Neil Nesheim

Juneau, Alaska

Thank you Pat,

I'm hoping we can make a big push on Seawalk construction over the next few years. We have been challenged by private property issues, but it looks like we have an agreement for the South end of the Seawalk and with proposed developments at the Subport and the Coast Guard property, I'm hopeful we can make progress on the north end as well. I agree it is a huge community benefit.

Thanks,

Alix

From: pat monagle <ptmonagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:46 AM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Marine Passenger Fees

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

Read in today's paper you are taking comments on how to spend the Marine Passenger Fee funds.

I would wholeheartedly support any and all funds going towards to Sea Walk! Whether it be during the summer or even now in winter, I'm constantly seeing people using the existing Sea Walk and it is not complete. There is no easy or pleasant, way from walking from S Franklin to the Whale fountain by the bridge. Having the Sea Walk gives residents and tourists a beautiful option of traversing the waterfront in a safe manner as well.

Pat Monagle

Thank you David,

We're limited in how we can use Marine Passenger Fees, but I agree we have a major landfill problem and the cruise industry has contributed significantly over the years. Last year, we signed an agreement with the cruise industry to stop using our landfill and help prolong its lifespan, a step we should have taken years ago. I appreciate your suggestion and I will pass your comments along to the Assembly.

Alix

From: David Tallmon <david.tallmon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:06 PM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: marine passenger fee program

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

Dear Ms. Pierce-

I would propose the use of a significant portion of the Marine Passenger Fee Proceeds to determine how to alleviate our trash problem. Our problem is that we have limited landfill space and high rates of trash accumulation at the landfill. We will soon run out of space and we are already seeing an increase in odors from the landfill in neighboring parts of town. Cruise ship trash contributes substantially to our trash volume, so it is justifiable to use the available funds to address the issue of a long term trash solution for Juneau and its cruise ship visitors.

Thanks,
David Tallmon

Thank you Dave,

I appreciate you taking the time to submit comments. We are constrained in how we can spend these particular funds, but I definitely agree that we need to maintain our existing infrastructure. I'll make sure your comments are provided to the Assembly.

Alix

From: dave miller <millerdavem@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Passenger Fee spending by cbj

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

According to a KTOO news article, the city is willing to accept opinions from its residents on how passenger fees should be spent this coming year.

Might I suggest spending the money on current infrastructure as opposed to new projects. Juneau's aging infrastructure including roads, water and sewer utilities, aging public transportation, and the lack of a landfill are just some of the projects in desperate need of attention.

Funding new projects would be a great thing but not at the expense of current city services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input.

Dave

Hello Noah,

Your comments have been received and will be forwarded to the Assembly for consideration. Thank you for your input!

Alix

-----Original Message-----

From: Noah Jenkins <noah.jenkins.iaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Marine head tax

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

Alexandra,

(I am dictating this email so please forgive any typos) I think a wise use of head tax funds would be to increase the funding for the seasonal ambulance to allow it to be in service for 24 hours About eight years ago when the seasonal ambulance was first conceived cruise ships tended to arrive right around 8 AM intended to leave by 8 PM. This no longer is true as cruise ships arrive much earlier and often don't depart until near midnight. Also, it is very common for cruise ship passengers from outline communities to be transported via airplane or helicopter to Juneau after 8 PM and prior to 8 AM.

Not only would 24 hour service for that seasonal ambulance better serve the tourist it would have the added benefit of keeping the way two main ambulances in service more often.

Thank you for considering this proposal and feel free to reach out if you have questions or need further details.

Noah Jenkins
209-4722

Hello Laura,

Your comments have been received and will be provided to the Assembly for consideration. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Alix

From: Laura Powers <lpowers@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 5:13 AM
To: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Cruise ship fees

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

Funding for Seawalk expansion

Improvements to Marine and Homestead Parks

Improvements to wastewater infrastructure

Funding to be put toward the Capital Civic Center

The above proposed projects are of interest to the Juneau community. I wanted to express my sincere consideration of the importance to allocate funds to unpopular infrastructure (wastewater) projects. Many of the other projects have been proposed to the local community and have not been popular for many reasons. I urge you to fund wastewater to insure projects that keep our environment pristine. I am not supportive of the Capital Civic Center or the Seawalk. These are very expensive projects that take years to development and complete. Improvements to Marine/Homestead Parks would be a good second project to fund as it could be completed quickly and the community can take advantage with the least inconvenience or controversy.

Best,

Laura Powers

2185 Fritz Cove Rd.