



Port of Juneau

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From: Chair
Docks & Harbors Board of Directors

To: Downtown Douglas/West Juneau Area Plan Steering Committee

Date: May 29th, 2025

Re: BOARD COMMENTS TO AREA PLAN

On behalf of the CBJ Docks & Harbors Board, thank you for your multi-year effort to create the Downtown Douglas/West Juneau Area Plan. We were pleased that Board Member Annette Smith was able to contribute to the planning and final product. The Board provides the following comments to your April 28, 2025 draft.

1. We believe that the formal name of the Douglas Harbor should be recognize at some point in the plan: Mike Pusich Douglas Harbor
2. The use of limited or small-scale tourism is used throughout the Plan. This description probably needs a more detailed description to this goal. Please know that Docks & Harbors is an enterprise operations of the City & Borough of Juneau. This requires self-generating revenues or competing for project funding every five years under the 1% Sales Tax Initiative to improve harbor infrastructure. An expansion to the vision of “limited tourism” could result in additional funding availability under the use of Marine Passenger Fees.
3. Under goal 1.1, Action Item B: *Maintain and improve the Douglas Harbor for access to commercial fishing and recreation activities*. Please know in the past 25 years, Docks & Harbors and partners have invested over \$40M and completed 12 major construction projects and numerous smaller infrastructure improvements in Douglas Harbor. This includes major dredging needed to construct Floats D & E as well as maintenance dredging to recapitalize A, B and C Floats. Recent improvements have included portable sewer pump out services offered at no cost and security lighting improvements in the parking lot. We have plans for greater aesthetic improvements with heated bathrooms, paving, lighting and landscaping, but do not currently have funding to proceed. A more comprehensive list of the work D&H has executed includes:
 - a. 2001 – Douglas Harbor Uplands and Moorage Expansion – Phase I
 - b. 2001 – Douglas Harbor Uplands and Moorage Expansion – Phase 2
 - c. 2002 – Douglas Harbor Log Boom Breakwater
 - d. 2003 - Douglas Harbor Uplands and Moorage Expansion – Phase 3
 - e. 2005 – Douglas Harbor Sewer Pump out
 - f. 2008 – Douglas Harbor City Dock Demolition (Required to install the new breakwater)
 - g. 2008 – Douglas Harbor Floating Breakwater

- h. 2009 – Douglas Harbor Rubble Mound Breakwater Extension
 - i. 2015 – Old Douglas Harbor Demolition
 - j. 2015 – Douglas Harbor Renovation
 - k. 2018 – Douglas Harbor Sewer Barge
 - l. 2020 – Douglas Harbor Anodes
 - m. 2023 – Douglas Trailer Lot Resurfacing with recycled asphalt
 - n. 2024 – Douglas Harbor (parking lot & near gangways) and Launch Ramp Installed new Lighting (LED luminaires)
4. The Docks & Harbors Board would be interested in the vision provided in Goal 1.4 for *access points* as well as *connectivity* as it pertains to the Douglas Harbor.
 5. Under Goal 2.4 Action E: *Install a public use dock at the Douglas Harbor for recreation and potential commercial use.* The Board would like to receive greater detail as to where this dock could be located.
 6. Under Goal 2.6 Action C: *Maintain and enhance opportunities for liveaboards in the Douglas Harbor.* Docks & Harbors provides the most liberal liveaboards opportunities in the Pacific NW and provides the most northern year-round potable water system in a North American small boat harbor. Our vision to provide heated bathrooms, including showers, will be pursued once funding can be secured. Please know that Docks & Harbors is directed under CBJ Code to favor vessels engaged in transportation:
It is hereby declared to be the intent of this title to favor the use of the facilities of the boat harbor by commercial fishermen, government vessels, commercial vessels in trade and commerce, and pleasure craft, and by the general public at large. It is further the intent of this title to prevent and discourage the use of the facilities of the boat harbor by boats which have been abandoned by their owners to the point of becoming derelicts as defined in chapter 85.05 or becoming a charge and nuisance to the City and Borough, the port director, and the general public, or which are unsafe, or which are not used, or are not fit to be used, regularly for transportation on the water. (85.10.030)
 7. Regarding the request to enhance harbor opportunities for liveaboard, commercial and recreational users, and installation of a public use dock, perhaps the Plan should explicitly add an expansion of Mike Pusich Douglas Harbor as a goal. This language could be helpful to leverage community and political support for expansion. Please recognize that the Plan's support of the transfer of Mayflower Island from CBJ control would not be in alignment of developing new opportunities at Douglas Harbor by Docks & Harbors.