

July 18, 2022

To the Petersburg Borough Assembly:

Please do consider eliminating these line items listed as priorities by the State of Alaska Dept of Transportation, as part of the Capital Budget being discussed at tonight's meeting:

- Wrangell Narrows Shuttle Terminal
- Petersburg Shuttle Terminal
- Wrangell Narrows Shuttle Ferry (listed twice)
- Kupreanof Shuttle Ferry Terminal

As a reminder, the Kake-Petersburg Road for which these projects would provide a connection, was opposed by the communities of Kake and Kupreanof as well as a majority of Petersburg residents. The Assembly at the time of the project's consideration raised numerous concerns about lack of winter maintenance and access, impacts to subsistence hunting, lack of clarity and responsibility for any emergency response in that area, and the ongoing cost of maintenance, all at a time when the State's budget was more robust than is currently the case (see Assembly meeting minutes from July 15, 2013, for example). The Dept. of Transportation representative Andy Hughes acknowledged in a Borough Assembly meeting in 2013 that maintenance for the road was unlikely to receive adequate funding given the state of the State's budget, even at that time.

There exist private individuals providing shuttle service to various locations in this area. The State does not need to be competing with those operations and building expensive, low-use facilities that will need future maintenance. The level of anticipated demand does not warrant the level of anticipated cost for building and maintaining these projects.

We have other priorities for which the State could be focusing their attention which would have greater benefits for the Borough's economic robustness, and the health and safety of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Cindi Lagoudakis