

- **SE Conference Transportation Symposium:**

I attended the Transportation day on the last day of the winter SE Conference meeting on Thursday Feb 13th. It was an informative meeting with presentations by:

- ADOT Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith
- AMHS Operations Overview and Long-Range Planning Update with Director Tornga and other project managers from various contracted entities
- Southcoast Transportation Projects
- Transportation Planning Efforts with a few of the folks who have been helping us with PIDP and other applications
- A lunch presentation showcased Yakutat's and Wrangell's dock and boat harbor improvements
- A Community Transportation Work session where we identified top community planning challenges at which there were state, federal and private planning partners. These were recorded and are supposed to be collated and shared with various agencies. I mentioned several challenges including being able to use the ferry ramp for freight delivery for other than just RO/RO ferry traffic
- Finished with funding resources and tools review

You can find the presentations here by scrolling down to Thursday February 13th. The two harbor and dock presentations are worth looking at.

[2025 MSS & TS Presentations - Southeast Conference](#)

- **Alaska Municipal League Winter Legislative Session**

The Agenda with details can be found here:

[Winter Legislative Conference - Alaska Municipal League](#)

Some of the highlights include:

- Current legislation affecting local governments – updates by Nils Andreassen and a couple of AML lobbyists. There are many issues facing municipalities with education looming large in state. Additionally, all the federal layoffs and significant funding elimination being targeted from the current administration in DC was a primary concern among members.
- We heard from the legislative leadership – House and Senate majority and minority, Speaker of the House, Senate President and a few committee chairs
- We received state agency updates from several departments. I took this opportunity to speak with the Commissioners of DPS – LE issue at airport; DNR – gravel pit and additional land acquisition; and ADOT – several issues , mostly about dock ramp and floats, EAS and AWOS
- Larry Persily - on the Alaska News Coalition which will allow public notices (sometimes required to be published locally) to be a single, easily searchable database for the public — at no additional cost to advertisers. (other than the initial ad placement) [What We Do - Alaska News Coalition](#)
- Visits with Chief of Staff, Tyson Gallagher on issues I thought should be elevated to the Governor's Office I had meetings with Senator Kiehl, Andi Story, and Senator Mike Cronk who is sponsoring SB63 his LBC legislation that modifies the composition and appointment process of Alaska's Local Boundary Commission by increasing the number of members from five to six and adjusting the appointment requirements and includes a member from the Unorganized Borough. Bill detail here:

[AK SB63 | BillTrack50](#)

Additionally, while I was in Juneau:

- Drafted the Professional Services Agreement for review by GVFD and Medical Director. Met up with Dr. Quigley Peterson discuss his role with GVFD, and to formalize/sign the PSA
- Met with Nikki Navio from the Denali Commission about the Good River Bridge Project
- Met with Aurah Landau from HDR to get a sense of when they would provide us a report of former activities and assess the remaining funding from our contract to see how best to use it for upcoming grant opportunities.
- Met with Zach Gianotti of ADEC to discuss the septage study, ADEC concerns, upcoming DRC permitting, and landfill items in general.
- Met briefly with Will Judy at ATS to talk about the next phase of planning resulting from the Cybersecurity Assessment and whether we could move a project primarily aimed at developing policies.

• **Grants update:**

AML continues to assist municipalities in wading through these times of financial uncertainty.

- National League of Cities – Advancing Economic Mobility - Match AP&T for heat pump acquisition.
Update – Applications and payments are still being processed, and some payments have been made. Some applicants still need to submit additional information. Deadline is May 31, 2025.
- Compost Facility
Update –I submitted a CDS request for FY26 which was similar to the submittal of FY25. I submitted another request for the horizontal baler separately as directed by Senator Murkowski’s appropriations staff. We have had no word from the SWIFR grant application.
- DRC - Recycling Center
Update – It’s all in the details... One of our responses to a particular question on a compliance form indicated one NO answer. That the city does not maintain demographic data on the population served, which includes racial/ethnic, national origin, age, sex and disability status data, required me to sort that out and find a format in which to have it available so I could answer YES. I then resent an updated Form 4700-4 indicating an affirmative answer to that question. Thanks to Whitney for help with the Census website that I had not navigated before for this purpose. Additionally, I submitted updated paperwork to push out the timeline and milestones dates so it would match up with the upcoming grant agreement. Getting closer to the funds being obligated, but with an impending government shutdown, who knows?
- PIDP – Dock/Floats Protection
Update- On 2/27, along with folks from ADOT and AML, I participated in a debrief with MARAD staff where they provided feedback on the scores for the PIDP grant. They encouraged us to resubmit for the next round and also discussed other sources of funding. We will be working with ADOT to resubmit.
- FEMA – AFF Water Tender
Update - So far this funding hasn’t been put on hold, but we have been advised that there will be an additional layer of scrutiny on any funds being requested. Sol, in conjunction with other dept volunteers, it is in the procurement phase for the vehicle, but we still have not received an Obligating Award Documents for the grant funds yet.

- **CAPSIS** – We ended up submitting two priorities instead of three because one of the questions asked on the CAPSIS Portal is whether other funds (from various sources) have already been appropriated. It has a built-in formula, which subtracts the amount already appropriated. Which, in our case, was 110,000. Since we cannot ask for more than was already allocated, we therefore did not submit that request.
- Continued involvement on our **Request for Reconsideration** on the Xunaa Borough and the ensuing 2/18 meeting - where they basically addressed the OMA issue rather than the actual reconsideration standards. Mayor McLaughlin has more to report on this to bring everyone current. Information was sent out to News with links to the LBC meeting information. More News will be sent out as the process evolves.
- **Roads** – It looks like Spring breakup is here and the roads are very wet. This is not conducive to grading that would only last for a half dozen vehicles before it is back to potholes. If anyone has concerns, rather than calling City Hall, please send those concerns by filling out a form that can be found here: <https://www.gustavus-ak.gov/roads/webform/road-maintenance-concerns-reports> We also get copies of the reports.
- A brief list of other items:
 - Prepared notices to public – one being for input regarding the septage study and another for Essential Air Service support to congressional delegation
 - Provided additional information to Brian Taylor as follow up to his congressional visits in DC
 - Collaborated with John Barry to create an updated Scoping Document for submittal to CAPSIS and for the City. We also discussed elements that should be included under a new model to include in an RFP for the Gravel Pit Project. Continued to have other discussions on extending the life of the gravel pit
 - Continue to deal with crises du jour from federal budget and other decisions from DC
 - City budget review and deliberations with Mayor and Treasurer
- Any Council Questions or Comments?