


TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Honorable Mayor & City Council Initials: 

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager File #: MGR25-NBc

DATE: April 25, 2025 Mtg. #: 05/01/25 279

RE: **City Council Correspondence to Representative Bynum and Senator Stedman Regarding Suggested Operational Changes to ADOT Tongass Highway Projects**

At the meeting of April 17, 2025, the City Council received public comment from Zac Boles of Sourdough Cab concerning the impacts to taxi operations caused by the traffic delays at the Wolfe Point slope stabilization project site, particularly on the community's first cruise ship day, and concerns regarding upcoming work along the North Tongass Highway corridor. He suggested the City petition the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT) or SECON, their contractor working on both projects, to shift working hours to the evening to lessen these impacts while vessels are in port. Several Councilmembers echoed these concerns during the Mayor and Council Comments portion of the meeting, but no formal action was taken or direction given to staff.

Following the City Council meeting, State Representative Jeremy Bynum contacted Public Works Director Seth Brakke requesting any ideas or comments the City may have with regard to improving the traffic flow and easing community impacts in these project areas. Mr. Brakke did offer the suggestion made by Mr. Boles and some Councilmembers to shift the working hours to the evening. Representative Bynum requested that the City submit a formal request to his office to be addressed by ADOT.

As the City Council has not yet reached a consensus on a formal position regarding a request of ADOT/SECON to shift working hours at the Wolfe Point and North Tongass Highway project sites to the evening hours so as not to conflict with time-bound tourism-related traffic, staff is now seeking City Council direction on if it would like staff to prepare a formal request for submittal to the offices of Representative Bynum and Senator Stedman for further consideration by ADOT following Representative Bynum's request.

A motion has been prepared for City Council consideration.

Recommended Motion:

I move the City Council direct the Acting City Manager to take such action regarding the submittal of correspondence to Representative Bynum and Senator Stedman regarding suggested changes to the current Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT) Wolfe Point and North Tongass Highway project operations as determined appropriate by the City Council.