

Central Council/Allen Marine Short Sea Transportation Initiative
April 29, 2010

Proposal:

Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska desires to partner with a marine service company to provide efficient transportation and shipping services to villages of Southeast Alaska, using Sitka as the hub community. The proposal is a marine highway project designed to meet the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Our proposal meets the criteria of the Short Sea Program;

The proposal calls for operating a documented U.S. vessel which will run a feeder route between the villages of Angoon, Kake, Juneau, Tenakee, Pelican, and Sitka. The community of Sitka will act as the Hub connecting villages to a very large Alaska Native Medical Center which services these villages.

The rural villages of Angoon, Kake, Tenakee, and Pelican have no road connection to the mainland city of Juneau, or the community of Sitka. By connecting these rural villages on a Short Route system will increase passenger and shipper utilization, and connect them more efficiently to the Juneau road system.

All villages have port and landside infrastructure to accommodate a documented vessel. The schedule should/will allow for coordination with the Alaska Marine Highway system and with the communities served. Currently the State ferry system is bottlenecked with servicing these rural communities; therefore this proposal will allow the State to provide better mainline service, but will provide a solution to providing efficient service to the targeted villages.

The proposed service route will act as an “extension of the surface and shipping transportation from Juneau and Sitka, two of the primary shipping and transportation hubs in Southeast Alaska. The proposal will allow for increased economic development opportunity by having increased service to the villages. The routes are traditional Tlingit trading routes and are established waterways and a much needed expansion of marine highway services in Southeast Alaska.

In conclusion, this proposal sets the stage for “Alaska Corridors of the Future,” and sets the stage for short sea shipping progress in Southeast Alaska.