



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

November 01, 2023 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/88069534778> or Phone 1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 880 6953 4778

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. ROLL CALL

1. Welcome to new Assembly Liaison Ella Adkison

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. October 4, 2023 JCOS Regular Meeting Minutes
3. October 17, 2023 Solid Waste Subcommittee Minutes

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

G. AGENDA TOPICS

4. JCOS Draft Letter on Assembly Goals - Gretchen Keiser (JCOS) & JCOS November 2022 Letter to the Assembly
5. JCOS Comments on Draft FY25 Legislative Priorities- Gretchen Keiser (JCOS) & JCOS November 2022 Memo
6. Presentation: Julius Adolfsson Active Transportation Planner, Alaska DOT: Bike-Ped Program
7. Planning for JCOS Retreat in January 2024 - Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)
8. JCOS Subcommittee Reports - Steve Behnke, Nick Waldo

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

9. JCOS Comments on Visitor Circulator study

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

J. NEXT MEETING DATE

10. November 14, 2023 - JCOS Solid Waste Subcommittee Meeting
11. December 6, 2023 - JCOS Regular Meeting

K. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.org.

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
 Wednesday, October 4, 2023, noon
 Minutes

- A. CALL TO ORDER
 Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at noon.
- B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- C. ROLL CALL
1. Present: Laura Achee, Steve Behnke, Gretchen Keiser, Duff Mitchell, Jim Powell, David Teal
 2. Absent: Jessica Barker, Marian Call, Nick Waldo
 3. **A quorum was present.**
 4. Staff & Others Present: Assembly Liaison Maria Gladzizewski, Planning Commission Liaison Nina Keller, CBJ Staff Liaison Denise Koch, CBJ Staff Dianna Robinson, Lori Sowa (AEL&P), Tom Mattice (CBJ), Alix Pierce (CBJ) with LSC Consultants Justine Marmesh and Gordan Show, Rich Ross (Capital Transit), Zach Gianotti (AK DEC)
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Approved without changes.
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes for the following meetings were approved with a technical change to Sept 6 minutes.
1. September 6, 2023 – JCOS Regular Meeting
 2. September 19, 2023 – JCOS Solid Waste Subcommittee
 3. September 26, 2023 – JCOS Climate Impacts/Sustainability Indicators Subcommittee
- F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 None
- G. AGENDA TOPICS
1. CBJ Emergency Preparedness – Tom Mattice (CBJ)
 Emergency Response builds and coordinates response plans for all hazards across many agencies in the region. In response to questions: play a role in support of local response to a cruise ship incident but are not the major provider of services; climate change is considered in their planning efforts.
 2. Circulator Study Update – Alix Pierce (CBJ) and LSC Consultants
 This is the third of three deliverables: began as tourist congestion study and expanded to glacier and other transportation options.
 - Circulator (2 route options with no more than two vehicles—diesel to begin with). Propose \$5 fare with potential cost recovery. Purpose is to address tourist congestion. Consultants recommend the longer route option.
 - Capital Transit tripper service to minimize people left at bus stops due to full buses is the recommendation for addressing additional capacity on some routes.

- Glacier transport is limited to an existing route to a staging area about 0.3 mile from the glacier—role of CBJ vs. private sector is an issue and there is no firm recommendation on this topic.

This is an opportunity for JCOS members to provide stakeholder input (by October 20).

Motion to give the JCOS Energy Committee authority to assemble JCOS comments for submission to Alix Pierce. Adopted without objection.

Discussion of past data/studies, cost sensitivity and funding sources (CBJ GF, federal grants, fares, passenger fees, local use versus tourist use. Ms. Koch noted that CBJ is not eligible for additional federal pass-through operating funding.

Mr. Powell motion: Mr. Mitchell to take lead on collecting JCOS comments. Adopted without objection.

3. Sustainability Awards and Climate Indicators – Jim Powell (JCOS)
New assembly so reintroducing the concept. Looking for at least two JCOS members to put in continuing effort as outlined in the committee document. JCOS can help establish the award program, but this should be a CBJ award. Sense of Commission is to firm up the concept at the committee level and then discuss the topic while setting other JCOS goals for 2024. There is general agreement that the concept is a good one.
4. JCOS November Input to CBJ Assembly goal setting - Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)
Ms. Keiser will seek input from JCOS subcommittee chairs and provide a discussion draft for the JCOS November 1st meeting.
5. JCOS Subcommittee Reports – Nick Waldo, Marian Call, Steve Behnke, Jim Powell, Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)
No additional discussion
6. Source Control (FOG) Thanksgiving Magnet Mailer – Dianna Robinson (CBJ)
No additional discussion

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Gladzizewski noted the importance of the assembly's goal-setting process and the importance of having JCOS members talk to all assembly members about goals in general and provide short/direct comments on specific CBJ goals. Her mention of on-bill financing as an example where JCOS input & expertise would be useful prompted a discussion of that topic.

Mr. Mitchell thanked all involved for a very successful EV round-up on September 23rd. Juneau is already seen as progressive and is ready to expand EV use in the near future. The State Energy Task Force will be seeking AEA release of community-level EV statistics obtained from DMV.

J. NEXT MEETING DATES

1. October 17, 2023 – JCOS Solid Waste Subcommittee Meeting
2. November 1, 2023 – JCOS Regular Meeting

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.

Submitted by David Teal, Secretary

Agenda Solid Waste Subcommittee

Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Minutes

Zoom Webinar

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Nick Waldo, Chair called meeting to order at 12:04pm.
- II. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- III. **ROLL CALL.** Nick Waldo and Marian Call of the SW Committee provided a quorum. Also in attendance were: Gretchen Keiser and Duff Mitchell (JCOS members); Cer Scott, Brandi Tolsma, and Amy Erfling (Tlingit-Haida Environmental Programs staff); and Ashley Heimbigner (CBJ Grants Specialist).
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** Amy Erfling introduced herself as new to JCOS meetings.
- VI. **AGENDA TOPICS**

1. **Sustainability Session planning (Marian Call and Nick Waldo).** Ms Call briefed attendees on the planning for the upcoming Sustainability Session, entitled “Composting in Juneau” to be held at the Mendenhall Valley Library, November2, 2023. 7-8pm.

It was clarified that Darryl Synder, Coop Extension, had been invited as a panel member but is not available. There was some discussion about including a person on backyard composting, but the group concluded that the focus is on composting at scale in Juneau. Ms. Keiser indicated that she could field backyard composting Qs during the Q&A segment, if needed.

Ms. Call outlined the session, although there was some discussion about how much time individual panel members would have to present initial comments. Mr. Waldo will moderate the panel session, while Ms. Call handles event production. The SW committee will identify a handful of Questions to initiate the panel discussion at the beginning of the Q&A segment to prompt public participants’ Qs.

Ms. Call will complete the event poster and looks to other JCOS members to distribute posters (Ms. Keiser (Valley), Mr Waldo (Douglas), and Mr. Mitchell (business community). She will also send the poster to all JCOS members to spread the word via email.

2. **Discussion of proposed assembly recommendation bullets (Nick Waldo)**

The Committee discussed potential recommendations focused on existing Assembly Goal 5A “Develop a zero waste and waste reduction plan”. Mr. Waldo presented some rough draft language which the committee reworded to use language that 1) builds on the existing E&PW zero waste pathway outline, 2) uses “action” instead of “plan”, and 3) is short and sweet text.

Ms. Keiser suggested that the second draft recommendation regarding the goal of “adopt of vision for the next landfill” be reworded to frame it as options for replacement of the existing landfill when it’s full. She indicated that JCOS has in the past included some recommendations that focus Assembly attention on long-term sustainability issues, in addition to more discrete, action-oriented, near-term goals.

Mr Waldo will capture the committee’s discussion and submit draft recommendations to JCOS Chair Keiser for her drafting of an Assembly letter for the Nov 1st full JCOS meeting.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS. Ms. Heimbigner noted that E&PW will send a request to JCOS Chair Keiser shortly seeking input on the annual Legislative Priorities list.

VIII. COMMITTEE/LIAISON COMMENTS & QUESTIONS. No comments offered.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE
Sustainability Session Nov. 2, 2023 7pm at Valley Library
Solid Waste Subcommittee Nov. 14, 2023 12 PM @ZOOM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. The SW Committee meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by,
Gretchen Keiser



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0800

jcos@juneau.org

www.juneau.org/engineering-public-works/jcos

155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

DRAFT

November 2023

Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members,

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) thanks you for your ongoing commitment to promoting a sustainable local government and community. Among all the issues you constantly juggle for the benefit of local residents, your leadership on climate action, housing, and solid waste in the past continues to yield progress:

- CBJ now has an updated (2021) *energy use/GHG emission inventory* that provides a baseline for actions to accelerate Juneau's transition to renewable energy.
- CBJ tracks energy use in about 60 General Gov't facilities, and current/pending energy efficiency upgrades are estimated to reduce fuel use by 18% in the next five years.
- CBJ-supported Alaska Heat Smart has assisted over 1000 Juneau households complete energy efficiency measures, cut costs, reduce GHG emissions, and improve home health. Homes with heat pumps realize energy savings of \$1,200 - \$1,800/year and cut 5.5 tons emissions. Using federal grants (with CBJ match), AHS is assisting nearly 300 lower to middle income families surmount the up-front costs of efficiency upgrades.
- The FY24 Legislative Priorities lists *Juneau School District HVAC and Heating Control System Upgrades* (#6) – a project that addresses the substantial energy use in Juneau's schools as reported in the 2021 *energy use/GHG emission inventory* study.
- CBJ supports Juneau's EV growth through investments in public EV chargers, and has applied for federal funding for major upgrades to the system.
- Capital Transit's 7 Gillig electric buses are slated for delivery in late 2024, with bus barn upgrades and charging infrastructure underway.
- Planning for the Municipal Composting Facility started in 2023.
- The 1st step in Juneau's zero waste plan - a waste characterization/audit - will occur in 2024.
- CBJ Docks & Harbors has diligently investigated vendors that can provide the multiple, state-of-the-art components for shore power systems at the 16B docks.

In your annual goal-setting, JCOS encourages the Assembly to build on these accomplishments and efforts. JCOS recommends the following goals for your consideration during your retreat.

Assembly Goal #1 – Housing

- **Goal 1B Substitute:** Implement projects and strategies that advance the goals of the Housing Action Plan. Incorporate energy efficiency and electrification explicitly into CBJ actions in order to dramatically improve housing affordability while also contributing to Juneau’s energy and climate goals.
- **New Goal 1:** Initiate an update to CBJ residential and commercial building energy codes. Participate in and build off of a 2024 federally funded Alaska Housing Finance Corporation project to update community energy codes.

Assembly Goal #5 – Sustainable Community

- **Goal 5A Substitute:** Undertake actions identified in the zero-waste plan. Staff has laid out a sequence of steps for planning and implementation of waste reduction in Juneau. The necessary first step - a consulting project to describe and quantify the community’s waste stream - is underway.
- **New Goal 5:** Continue to develop the Resource Recovery Subdivision with the municipal composting facility as the first anchor. Initial site development of the approx. 25-acre subdivision (e.g., electrical power, grading and paving) could be initiated in 2024.
- **Goal 5B Substitute:** Identify and prioritize the most cost-effective energy efficiency and electrification upgrades in the General Gov’t facilities. The baseline energy data compiled by staff can be used to undertake a system-wide analysis of CBJ facilities in order to identify projects that would produce the optimal energy use reductions and life-cycle savings and contribute to CBJ energy and climate goals.
- **Goal 5C Substitute:** Support financing and funding of clean energy in the building and transportation sectors to advance the goal of reliance on 80% renewable energy sources by 2045. JCOS is willing to assist on a collaborative effort among CBJ Finance, JEDC, AEL&P, JCOS, financial institutions, non-profit organizations, etc. to undertake a broad examination of available financing options, partners, and funding sources.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Keiser, Chair
Juneau Commission on Sustainability



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0800

jcos@juneau.org

www.juneau.org/engineering-public-works/jcos

155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

November 18, 2022

Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members,

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) thanks you for your ongoing efforts to promote sustainability in the community. With the CBJ's climate action planning and renewable energy strategy as our foundation and your support, Juneau has made substantial progress in recent years in concrete ways and continues to do so:

- CBJ tracks energy use and cost savings in its facilities, identifies issues, and completes energy efficiency upgrades as part of routine maintenance and CIP projects.
- Juneau homeowners and developers embrace air source heat pumps for cost-effective retrofits and new construction. Alaska Heat Smart leveraged CBJ support with federal funding to now install these cost-saving efficiencies to lower income households.
- Juneau has 33 public EV chargers. About 600 EVs are powered by Juneau's rain.
- Juneau has one electric bus and seven more on order – roughly 44% of its transit fleet.
- CBJ funded an upgrade of existing shore power equipment as a precursor coupled with its financial commitment to electrify the two City cruise ship docks.
- CBJ is updating the Juneau 2010 energy/greenhouse gas inventory so the community knows where we're at and the challenges, plus the best actions moving forward.
- The Assembly funded a zero-waste planning effort to get underway in the coming year.

As you approach your annual goal-setting, **JCOS encourages the Assembly to sustain this momentum and build on these accomplishments.** Well-timed efforts by CBJ could position the city; Juneau homeowners, renters & landlords; businesses; and agencies to successfully access the once-in-a-generation federal funding for infrastructure and energy/climate resilience in the next few years.

JCOS recommends the following goals for your consideration during your retreat.

Assembly Goal #1 – Housing

- **Goal 1B:** Support the retrofit of existing single and multifamily housing with energy efficient upgrades. This implementation task in the *Housing Action Plan* (pg. 57) dramatically improves housing affordability.

Assembly Goals #5 – Sustainable Community

- **Goal 5C Substitute:** Develop and implement a 5- and 10-year action plan that advances Juneau's use of renewable energy. Use Juneau's updated energy/greenhouse gas inventory to pin point actions that will make notable progress toward energy/cost savings, GHG reductions, and renewable energy. **JCOS will submit a report to the Assembly in the near future that recommends potential next actions for your consideration.**
- **Goal 5D Substitute:** Prepare a changing climate hazards mitigation/resilience strategy. Building on the FEMA-funded hazards study and the report *Juneau's Changing Climate* (2022), identify vulnerabilities in Juneau due to the impacts of climate change (e.g., heavy precipitation inflows to wastewater treatment facilities or mass wasting off steep slopes). A strategy would help facilitate federal funding opportunities.
- **New Goal 5:** Promote, support, and collaborate on the broad electrification of Juneau's vehicle fleets. Coordination in the community could accelerate the conversion of school buses, CBJ light-duty vehicles; taxis, hospitality vans and rental cars; Juneau Coordinated Transportation Coalition vehicles; state and federal agency fleets; and tourism industry vehicles.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Keiser, Chair
Juneau Commission on Sustainability



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0800

jcos@juneau.org

www.juneau.org/engineering-public-works/jcos

155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

DRAFT

November 2023

To: Denise Koch, Director, CBJ Engineering & Public Works

From: Gretchen Keiser, Chair, Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Subject: FY 2025 CBJ Legislative Priorities

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) again appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the City and Borough of Juneau FY2025 Legislative Priorities. As JCOS observed this time last year, we believe it is important to maintain some flexibility when identifying important capital projects so that CBJ can secure some of the massive federal funds under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. In addition to the projects identified in the draft FY2025 Legislative Priorities list, billions of dollars are becoming available under grant programs for projects that address energy efficiency, GHG reduction, air pollution reduction, equity, and climate resilience.

JCOS supports the following two projects:

Juneau School District-wide HVAC and Heating Control System Upgrades. \$6.4M. This project appears on the current year's list and should remain a high priority in FY25 list. Prioritizing this JSD project accomplishes three things:

- 1) places it on the State of AK/Legislature radar for consideration under the limited State capital funding targeting school maintenance;
- 2) highlights this project as a community priority that is useful for seeking federal clean energy funding, such as the *Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities* under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law;¹ and
- 3) directly addresses the substantial energy usage in Juneau's schools (as noted in the *Juneau Energy Use & GHG Inventory 2021* study completed this year).

¹ For example, this Dept of Energy competitive grant program awarded the Fairbanks School District funds in 2023 to conduct a complete energy efficiency upgrade to one of its schools.

Municipal Composting Facility Design & Construction. \$4.0M. JCOS supported this project last year and encourages its retention on the FY25 priorities list as it would enable substantive progress on Juneau's solid waste diversion efforts to extend the life of our existing landfill. Although CBJ was unsuccessful this year in obtaining EPA grant funding, identifying this as a community priority in FY25 list will help CBJ in next year's competitive grant cycle.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Keiser, Chair
Juneau Commission on Sustainability

NOTE TO JCOS MEMBERS at Nov 1 Meeting:

JCOS could consider identifying alternative projects to the two listed above. This would require fleshing out the nomination paperwork for each project. Two additional projects to consider would be:

An energy alternative: **Shore Power Infrastructure for the Two 16B Docks.** ~\$40M. In 2023, CBJ Docks & Harbors has been investigating vendors who could provide the components necessary to bring electrical power from AEL&P's substation to the city-owned cruise ship docks and construct ship-ready shore power. Although the Assembly endorsed shore power in 2022 with potential bonding and marine passenger fees as revenue sources, project costs have escalated and identifying this project as a FY25 legislative priority may enhance opportunities to seek federal funding.

A solid waste alternative: **Resource Recovery Subdivision Site Development.** \$4M. JCOS highlights action to initiate development of this site as a new 2024 goal the Assembly should consider at its upcoming retreat. According to Eng & PW staff, initial work preparing the 25-acre site could include grading, drainage, paving, and establishing electrical power.



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0715
CDD_Admin@juneau.org
www.juneau.org/sustainability
155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

November 7, 2022

To: Katie Koester, Director, CBJ Engineering & Public Works

From: Gretchen Keiser, Chair, Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Subject: FY 2024 Legislative Priorities

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the CBJ's FY2024 Legislative Priority Projects process. JCOS is pleased to learn that the project list is not intended to be a comprehensive list. We believe that flexibility in identifying (and shifting) project priorities will be critical to CBJ's ability to leverage once-in-a-generation federal funding opportunities provided by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Cities can unlock funding opportunities by identifying priorities, estimating budget needs, pinpointing funding gaps and targeting the appropriate federal funding sources. Billions of dollars will become available for projects involving energy efficiency, electrification, GHG reduction, equity, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

JCOS fully supports Project #5—Electrification of Dock 16B—and urges you to move it to the top of the priority list based on its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and reduce noise in downtown Juneau, contribute to economic development, and function as a springboard for conversion of the tourism shore-based vehicle fleet to electric. The project may be a good fit for funding opportunities provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

JCOS also nominates the Municipal Composting Facility Design & Construction project as a priority to be included on the FY2024 list (Attachment). This project would provide a commercial-scale facility to divert organic wastes from the landfill as part of a broader zero waste plan for the community. The project has multiple benefits including the reductions of landfill odor, methane gas emissions, and the high organic loading experienced at the wastewater treatment facilities.

In general, JCOS also supports a flexible and more comprehensive approach to large, multi-year projects that may meet the above-mentioned federal funding opportunities and address the long-term sustainability of the Juneau community. Such an approach would focus on

- Energy efficiency upgrades to Bartlett Regional Hospital, schools, libraries, fire stations, etc. This would include ground-source heating, district heating (Civic Center), other HVAC improvements, and insulation;

- CBJ fleet electrification and community EV charging infrastructure (such as multi-agency use of EV charging in a reconstructed State Office Building parking garage); and
- Upgrading the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important task.

Attachment: Municipal Composting Facility Design and Construction – Nomination Form



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Increasing Walking, Biking, and Rolling in Juneau

Julius Adolfsson

Active Transportation Planner
Statewide Bike-Pedestrian Coordinator

Our mission is to *Keep Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.



A collage of four images: a yellow crane, a worker in a hard hat, a worker in a red vest and yellow hard hat, and a large industrial vehicle.

Agenda

Section G, Item 6.

- Introductions
- Connection between GHG emissions and transportation
- What can be done in Juneau?
- What's next?

Introduction

- **Who am I?**
 - Originally from Sweden
 - Been biking all my life (main mode of transportation growing up in Sweden)
 - Picture from my latest bike tour (North Macedonia -> Sweden)
- **What does a Statewide Bike-Pedestrian coordinator do?**
 - Recommendations in the Alaska Statewide Active Transportation Plan (ASATP)
 - Coordinates Alaska's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Addresses statewide challenges/barriers to active transportation
 - Implements strategies and processes to make active transportation safer in Alaska



Slide 3

BJA(0

What is AT plan?

Bates, Julie A (DOH), 2022-09-26T19:58:40.974

BJA(0 0

Assuming it's "Active Transportation plan"? If so, let's spell it out in the first bullet.

Bates, Julie A (DOH), 2022-09-26T19:59:39.943

FKJ(0 1

Agreed, what is AT?

Fink, Karol J (DOH), 2022-10-11T15:14:15.563

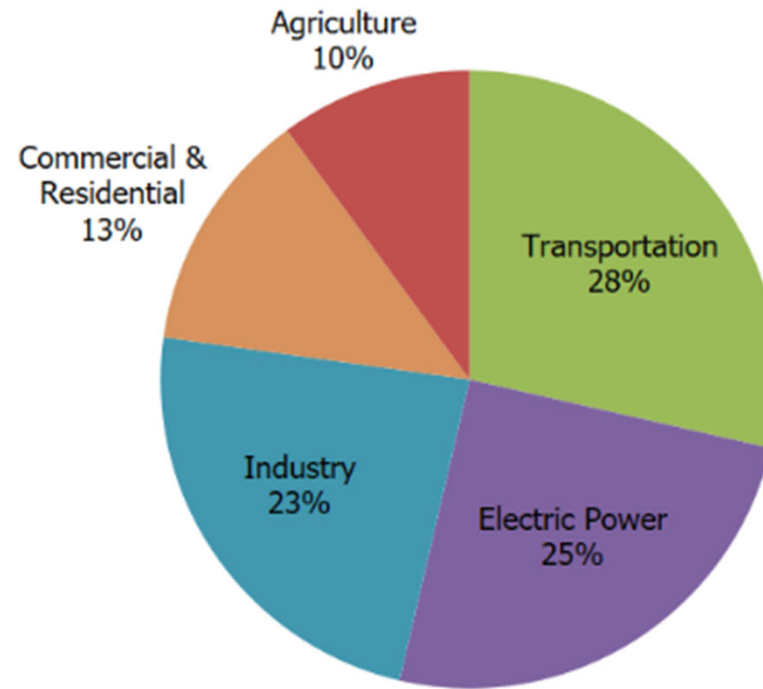
FKJ(0 2

If it is alternative transportation - please don't use that term. Walking and biking shouldn't be an alternative.

Fink, Karol J (DOH), 2022-10-11T15:15:08.329

Green House Gases (GHG) and Transportation

Section G, Item 6.

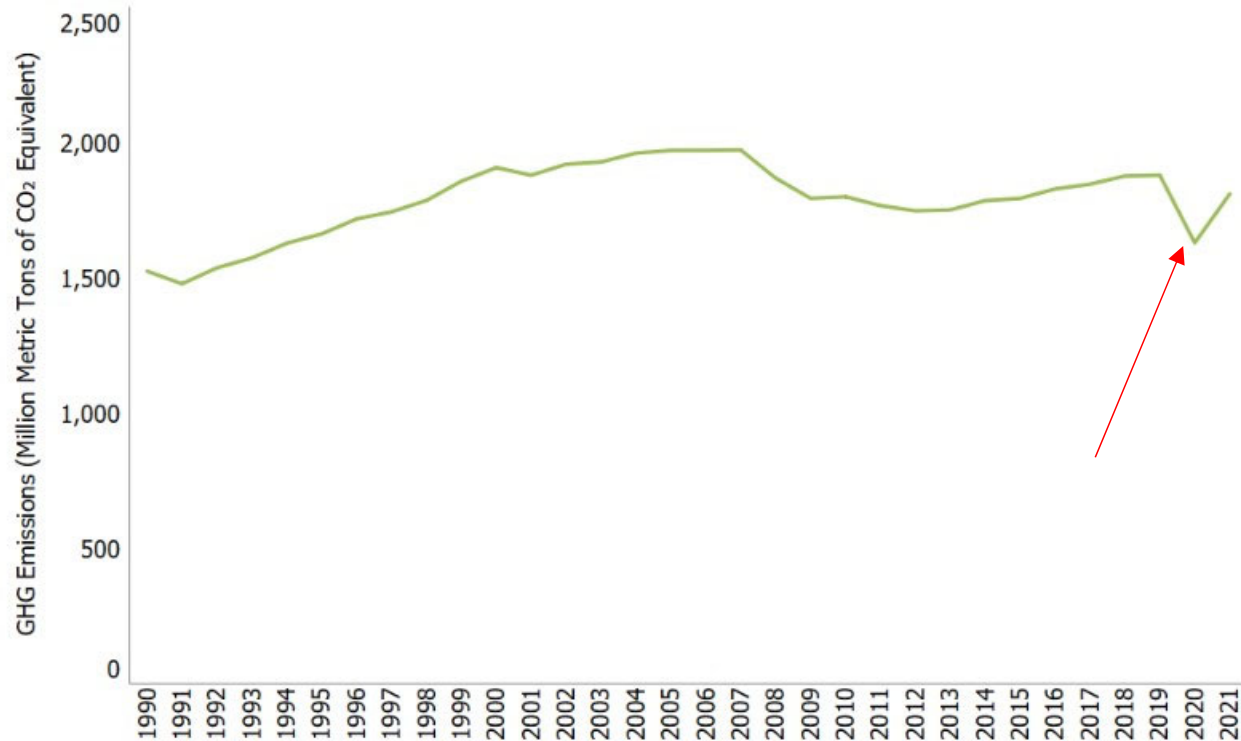


Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation

Section G, Item 6.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation, 1990–2021



Emissions involved in the use of electricity for transportation activities are included above, but not shown separately (as was done for other sectors). These indirect emissions are negligible, accounting for less than 1% of the total emissions shown in the graph. All emission estimates from the [Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2021](#).

National Travel Household Survey

- Nearly half of all trips Americans take are **within 3 miles**, or a 20-minute bicycle ride, and more than 20% of all trips are within a 20-minute walk
- Car trips **under one mile** long add up to about 10 billion miles per year.
- If we **reduced these trips by half**, and instead biked or walked, we would save around \$575 million in fuel costs each year and reduce carbon emissions and about 2 million metric tons of CO2 per year.

National Travel Household Survey

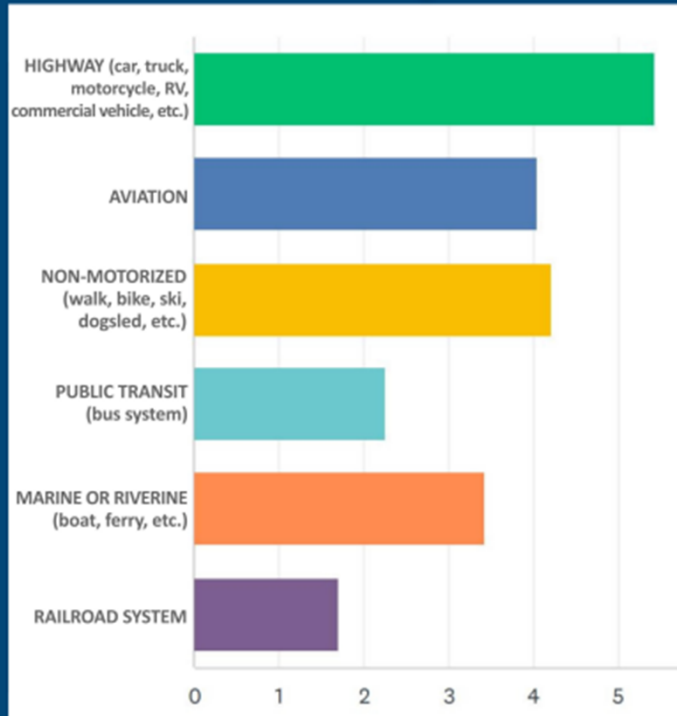
- Over 60% of trips by automobiles are **shorter than 6 miles and 75% of trips are shorter than 10 miles long**. Better connected biking and walking networks will help shift some of these shorter car trips to walking and biking. Shifting some of these trips from driving to walking or bicycling can reduce pollution and traffic congestion while increasing physical activity levels and enhancing mobility for people with disabilities.

Recent DOT survey about Alaskans' mode of travel

Section G, Item 6.

BJA(0

Q1 Rank the modes of travel you use from the most frequent to the least frequent.



1. HIGHWAY

2. NON-MOTORIZED

3. AVIATION

4. MARINE OR RIVERINE

5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

6. RAILROAD SYSTEM

DOT&PF IIA Public Survey November 2021

Slide 8

BJA(0

Missing words here - Not sure, but should it include "it mean" to read "What does it mean to increase opportunities for active transportation in Alaska?"

Bates, Julie A (DOH), 2022-09-26T20:01:07.943

RKL(0 0

I think you're right: I added "What does it mean to..."

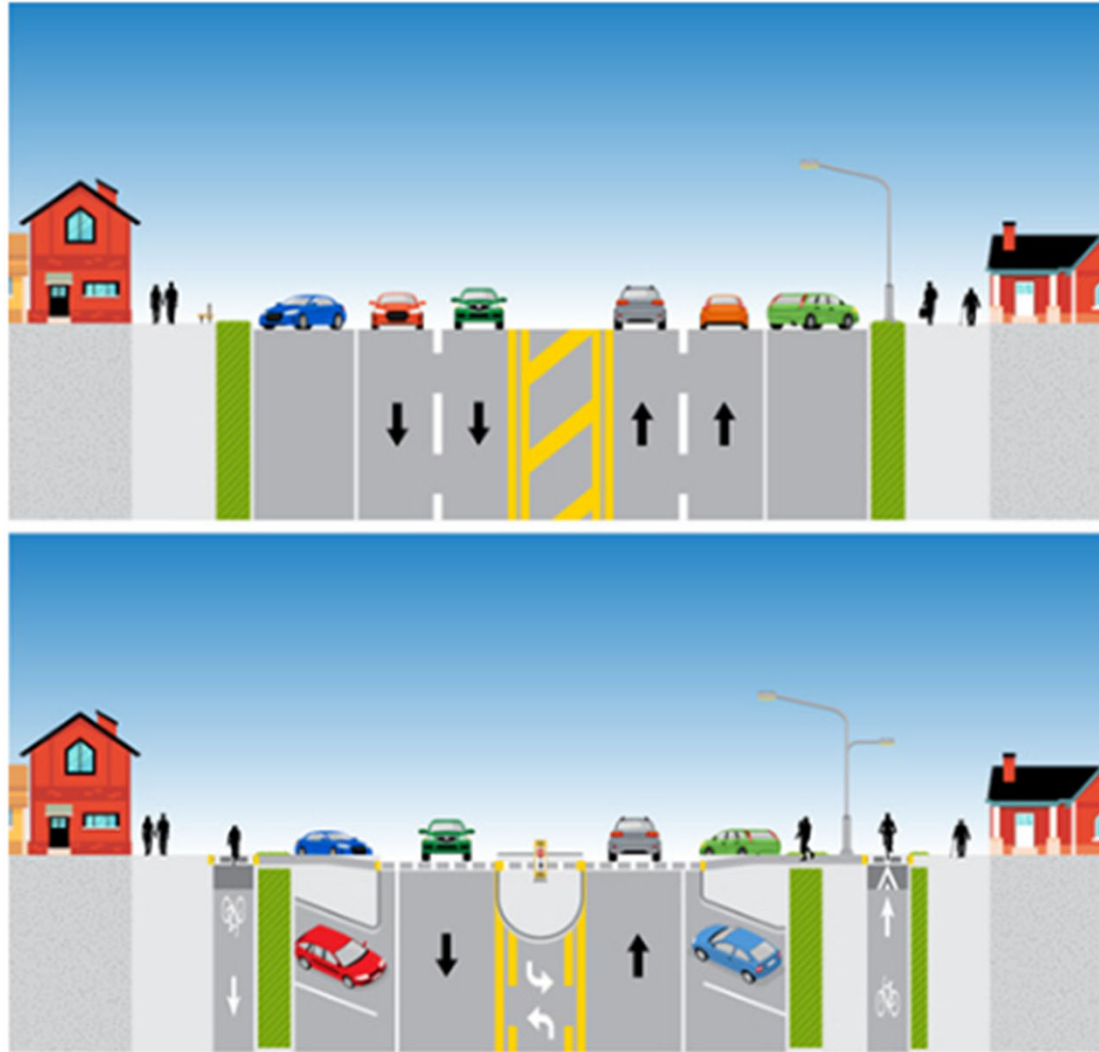
Reilly, Katie L (DOH), 2022-10-03T21:31:29.297

Potential projects

What tools can be used to encourage the use of transit or walking/biking year-round?

- Complete Streets policy - JCOS review board for Active Transportation Projects
- Safe Routes to School
- Winter Mobility Taskforce meeting w. prioritization of plowing routes
- Assist in the update of plans such as;
 - Juneau's non-motorized plan (2009)
 - Juneau Trails Plan
- Potentially updating land-use codes
- Seasonal tourism strategy – how can we accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists year-round?

Complete Streets Policy



Source: FHWA These cross-sections show how a rural 4-lane principal arterial Main Street could be converted to improve safety and access for all road users.

What could a Complete Street look like?

4-Lane Roadway (Base Condition)



FHWA. Bikeway Selection Guide



Section G, Item 6.

After



D



Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

- What is the SRTS Program?
 - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school. Nationally, 10%–14% of car trips during morning rush hour are for school travel, which can be compared with the year 1969 then half of all kids walked or biked to school.
 - Extensive resources are available through a national center, including an [SRTS Guide](#), [parent surveys](#) and [student tallies](#), and simple strategies, such as the [walking school bus](#), that schools can use to support bicycling and walking.

Transportation planning 101 - Why does one start?

Section G, Item 6.



Project lifecycle

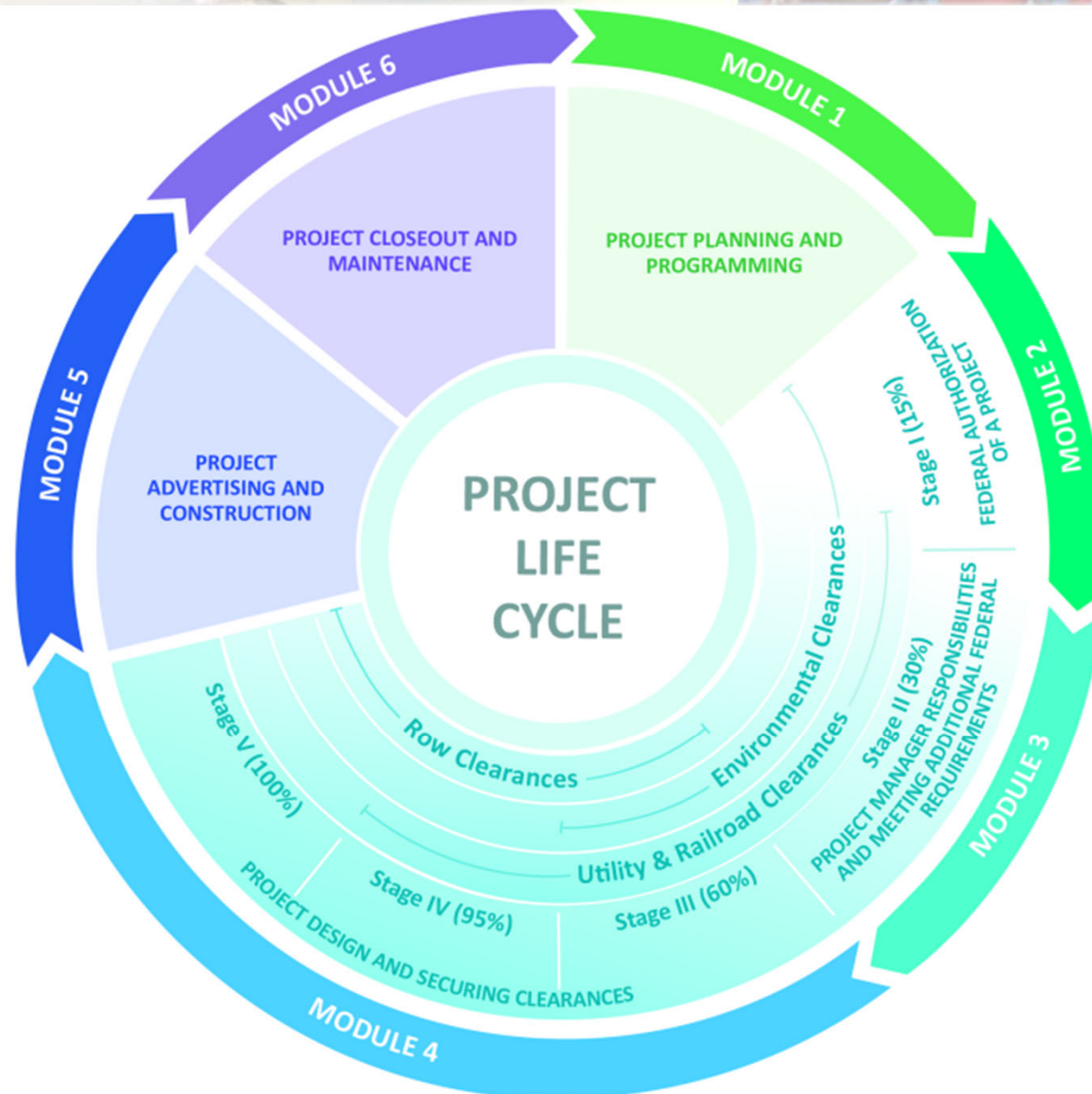


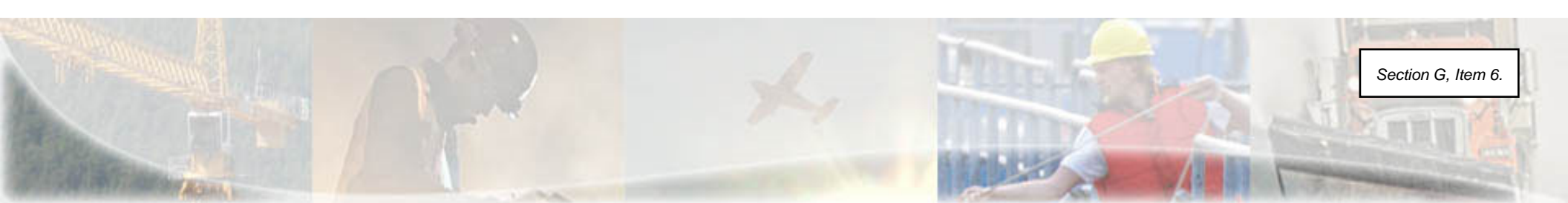
Image borrowed from [AZDOT](#)

Guiding Regulations and Funding

- Federal Highway Governing Bill
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>
- State Regulations
 - 17 AAC 05.155-990



Dalton Highway



Questions?



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0800

jcos@juneau.org

www.juneau.org/engineering-public-works/jcos

155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

October 20, 2023

Alexandra Pierce, CBJ Tourism Manager
155 S. Seward St
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Draft JUNEAU VISITOR CIRCULATOR STUDY Review of Report-JCOS Comments and Recommendations

The City and Borough's Commission on Sustainability (JCOS), which recommends sustainability policy to Juneau's elected officials, has strongly supported a shift toward electric vehicles for the CBJ transit system and continues to do so for the circulator concept. The whole goal of cruise ship shore power is to remove emissions and improve air quality. An electric circulator system complements this effort to reduce air emissions issues in downtown Juneau and not compound the existing problem.

In 2010-2011, JCOS helped develop the *Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan* (JCAP), resulting in the CBJ Assembly adoption of the plan in 2011 (Resolution 2593). The JCAP set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2032. The JCAP includes several goals and recommendations relating to electric vehicle adoption for the CBJ transit system:

Goal T-1: Reduce municipal fleet-related emissions.

Strategy TI-A. "Purchase low or zero-emission vehicles or renewable fuel vehicles to test for fleet use."

Goal T-2: Increase Capital Transit ridership

Strategy T-2. "Purchase only alternative/renewable fuel or hybrid transit vehicles." This developed from the recommendation in the 2008 (15 years ago) CBJ Transit Development Plan that the CBJ consider future fleet purchases of alternative fuel vehicles such as hybrid-electric.

Goal T-3: Reduce emissions per vehicle mile driven.

Strategy T3-B. "Consider the feasibility and economic viability of replacing the existing fleet with electric buses."

In 2018, the Assembly adopted the *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy* (Resolution 2808) developed and drafted by the JCOS. Building on actions in the earlier JCAIP, the 2018 JRES supports increased use of renewable energy in the community. The JRES strengthens our community's long-term commitment to the similar goals expressed in the 2011 JCAIP and repeatedly identified under the CBJ Assembly's annual sustainability goals. Reduced reliance on fossil fuels for transportation is one of the four key strategy areas

the JRES identified. **Incorporating electric circulator buses would be of great value to the CBJ in taking the next steps to make these community aspirations a reality while simultaneously marketing Juneau as a clean port destination.**

Juneau Commission on Sustainability's key areas of comments and recommendation on the JUNEAU VISITOR CIRCULATOR STUDY:

Federal Funding Opportunities and Assistance

JCOS requests a thorough identification of federal funding opportunities to help pay for the circulator expansion of CBJ Transit since it is apparent that there are several DOT, EPA, and perhaps other programs available to assist the CBJ in instituting a circulator without all costs being borne by the Juneau taxpayers or ridership fares. JCOS helping CBJ has been extremely successful in securing millions of federal dollars through the Section 5339(C) LOW OR NO EMISSION GRANT PROGRAM in acquiring replacement and for new improved service buses. Another CBJ success to build on is the 5339 (B) BUS FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM that is appropriately managed would pay for downtown bus charging facilities and safe, well-lit and perhaps heated bus pick up/drop off stations along the circulator route to provide safe and dry facilities for our residents and visitors alike. While JCOS is experienced with these two programs, independent discussions with our Congressional delegation staff and review of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill championed by Senator Lisa Murkowski would provide economic opportunities to timely make a clean circulator system in downtown Juneau a reality without paying for it entirely on the backs of Juneau taxpayers. In the final report, we would like to see a detailed discussion on all federal and state funding opportunities and mechanisms to help pay for the circulator system.

Juneau Resident Value Added Benefits

JCOS requests additional work and discussion on providing "value" to our Juneau residents. The report does a fine job at visitor benefits but is missing a section on value-adding the Juneau circulator system to Juneau residents and taxpayers.

JCOS would like to request a discussion on a downtown park and ride section. Downtown parking is an actual or perceived problem for residents. However, parking and visitor congestion is a problem that the circulator concept attempts to alleviate. Therefore, extending the value of the circulator concept to serve the needs of Juneau residents should be articulated in the final report. The circulator study should consider a CBJ-designated downtown "park and ride" parking lot(s). If the report and CBJ supported incorporating park-and-ride lots into the circulator concept, it would provide a valuable service to Juneau workers and visitors (requiring more than a 2-hour parking limit) to park their vehicles and then ride to and from the downtown corridor.

Juneau also hosts several significant events in Juneau, including the Juneau Folk Festival, Gold Medal Basketball Tournament, and the Sealaska Heritage Celebration events. A circulator that operates outside the tourist season that can assist in Juneau hosting these and more events not only helps visitors but it will increase restaurant and shopping traffic to our downtown corridor for these events.

Another salient discussion point is that these circulators can provide "beyond tourism season" on-call transportation from local downtown hotels and designated downtown pick-up stations to Eaglecrest for

our growing winter tourism. Residents can use this system to reduce congestion and parking requirements at Eaglecrest. The final report could also explore and discuss other opportunities that increase the circulator concept's value proposition to improve and optimize Juneau resident's services and more fully utilize transportation investments outside the traditional tourism season.

Avoid Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Issues with the Downtown Circulator

The whole discussion of the Mendenhall Glacier, its permitting, its impacts, its potential disruption, and displacement of private businesses and local operations is a distraction to implementing here-and-now solutions for the downtown circulator. The CBJ does not control the access to the visitor center and while the CBJ is encouraged to negotiate and consult, the CBJ does not control the permitting and access to the Glacier. JCOS is not recommending a protracted discussion with the US Forest Service and its management of the Mendenhall visitor center that serves to stall solutions and implementation time for a downtown circulator. This important topic can be dealt with in another study or effort separate from the immediate issues concerning a downtown circulator.

Profit/Loss/ Cost Sensitivity Analysis and Public-Private Partnerships

JCOS recommends a more robust exploration and discussion in this crucial area of the report. Circulators can make money and, if properly managed with efficiency and competency, contribute to Capital Transit's bottom line in capital and operations, improving economics as well as perceived value to Juneau residents. JCOS would recommend that the report conduct a sensitivity analysis on fee structures with beneficial scenarios that support local ridership.

For example, could CBJ Capital Transit monthly passes be incorporated to provide free additional circulator service?

Could monthly park-and-ride fare service that included access to off-downtown-corridor parking be integrated so that Juneau residents did not have to pay a high daily rate? The daily circulator rate could be raised and the monthly rate reduced so that the Capital Transit could afford "several," meaning three (3) or more buses to provide optimal service and keep locals and tourists from waiting in the rain. An effective circulator must be safe and reliable. Therefore, a more robust downtown circulator may be required based on ridership, especially if CBJ management effectively used and parlayed federal funding to help initially pay for the capital investment.

JCOS understands, based on past reports and anecdotal information, that our visitors are willing to pay for a proven, safe, effective, and timely service. However, no surveys or cost sensitivity analysis based on other competitive correlations appear in the report and should be considered.

Also, more information would be required to optimize services with a public/private partnership in that the CBJ could offer the service to a private operator but receive a "cut" to pay for capital infrastructure, replacement, and managerial operations. These options and costs need more exploration to maximize service at the lowest price for Juneau residents while optimizing revenue from visitors alike with appropriate fee structures of daily versus more extended duration fees.

In summary, the JCOS appreciates the invitation to comment. JCOS requests that our comments and other public comments be placed in a report appendix and made an integral component of the final report. We

also ask that in case a written and documentable invite has not already occurred, both Juneau tribal entities, the Douglas Indian Association and the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, be directly and cordially invited to make comments for CBJ to maximize any future Justice 40 and environmental justice points for any future federal funding grant and programmatic funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Keiser".

Gretchen Keiser, JCOS Chair