



City and Borough of Sitka

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Coast Guard City, USA

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Spivey and Planning Commission Members

From: Amy Ainslie, Planning Director

Date: November 11, 2021

Subject: **Tourism Planning – Future Planning Needs**

This session will be focused on indirect infrastructure, and particularly how they relate to future planning needs. As the focus of this plan is the 2022 cruise season, our ability to perform the necessary in-depth study is limited. However, in the joint work session between the Assembly and the Planning Commission in April, the need to map out future planning needs was mutually identified as a valuable deliverable from this plan.

Over the course of this planning effort, several future planning needs have been identified:

1. Impacts on CBS infrastructure/services: Roads, water and sewer, solid waste management, emergency response, harbors, and other public facilities/spaces (Harrigan, Library, City Hall, parks, trails, restrooms, etc.)
2. Community-wide impacts: Environmental impacts, housing, telecommunications, and traffic/congestion

The Commission should discuss additional planning areas needed and recommended work/planning efforts. While not exhaustive, staff would like to recommend the following:

1. Impact Study: A comprehensive impact study could take place in 2022 with data gathered during the season. The scope of this plan could be specific to CBS infrastructure or could be system-wide/community-wide. Opportunities to utilize CPET funds for offsetting identified impacts should be explored.
2. Traffic Study: CBS should request that ADOT perform a system-wide traffic study and that it be performed during the summer months. This will be critical data to support ADOT improvements in the future and can also be utilized by CBS in support of planning and grant application efforts.
3. Permitting Strategy: Across the board, CBS permitting procedures are disparate across departments, complex, and underdeveloped. Tourism adds pressure to permitting needs including transportation, vending, parking, and guiding services. Harrigan requires the most immediate attention, but all permitting would benefit from a comprehensive review/strategy.