

# SITKA'S SHORT-TERM TOURISM PLAN

FINAL DRAFT

City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska

Adoption Planned for February 2022

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## OUR THANKS

The Planning Team would like to extend our gratitude to all those in the community who have participated in the formation of this plan. From our City and Borough co-workers, tribal representatives, Visit Sitka, the Ports and Harbors Commission, visitor industry experts, local businesses, community organizations, local news outlets, state agencies, and involved citizens, your contributions are deeply appreciated.

A special thank you is extended to the Planning Commission, who worked many long evenings to steer this planning effort and see it to completion.

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# GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| ADOT                     | Alaska Department of Transportation   |
| Attraction, excursion    | Destinations, guided tours, and experiences available to visitors   |
| CBS                      | City and Borough of Sitka   |
| Dock-to-downtown shuttle | Transportation system to move passengers in mass from SSCT to the downtown area via large passenger buses         |
| HCH, Centennial Hall     | Harrigan Centennial Hall  |
| HPR                      | Halibut Point Road  |
| LOS                      | Level of service  |
| ROW                      | Right-of-way  |
| Seawalk                  | The pedestrian path stretching from HCH to the National Historic Park   |
| SMC                      | Sawmill Creek Road  |
| SSCT                     | Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal, the privately-owned and operated cruise ship dock located at 4513 Halibut Point Road |

## APPENDIX

- 2022 Sitka Cruise Calendar provided by Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska on November 29, 2021
- Sidewalk Level of Service Classification from the Journal of Engineering Research and Studies
- Results from Community Survey open 12/17/21 – 1/9/22
- Planning Commission minutes for plan-related meetings

# I. CONTEXT AND PLANNING HORIZON

## CHANGES TO THE CRUISE VISITOR INDUSTRY IN SITKA

In spring of 2021, it was announced that Sitka is expected to receive its largest cruise visitor season on record in 2022 with 400,000 passengers anticipated. This forecast was increased to 480,000 during the summer months, with estimates for 2023 and beyond ranging from 500,000 – 520,000.

Sitka’s largest cruise season on record was in 2008 with approximately 285,000 passengers. Not only is the increase to 480,000 passengers a significant increase over this previous high, the logistics of cruise ship visitation in Sitka has changed with the opening of the privately owned Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal (SSCT).

Before the development of SSCT, cruise ships anchored offshore and would lighter passengers into town, coming directly to Crescent Harbor dock and the O’Connell Bridge dock. From these locations, passengers would disperse to town on foot, on pre-booked tours, or by other modes of transportation available at the docks. Given its location approximately five miles away from the downtown area, passengers now disembarking at SSCT are shuttled to Harrigan Centennial Hall via ~60 passenger buses as the primary means of transportation. However, some tour operators do pick-up and/or drop-off guests directly from SSCT, making it another dispersion point in addition to Centennial Hall.

These changes in the industry prompted the creation of this plan.

## ASSEMBLY & PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

On April 13, 2021, the Assembly and the Planning Commission held a joint work session to discuss the scope and deliverables of this plan. It was determined that the plan would have five main elements:



### DISPERSION

Keep passengers moving throughout town and prevent congestion



### TRANSPORTATION

Explore options for passenger and resident transportation



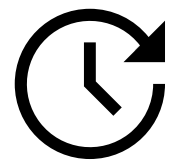
### TRAFFIC

Manage traffic to ensure safety and efficiency



### INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Define CBS infrastructure needs for the 2022 season



### FUTURE PLANNING NEEDS

Outline future planning needs for CBS infrastructure and community-wide impacts

The planning horizon was to be for the next one to five years, with a heavy emphasis on the 2022 season. It was agreed that outreach would be vital; a broad approach including industry professionals and organizations, merchants, tour operators, and the general public should be part of the process. To this effect, a work plan and schedule was developed and utilized for the planning effort.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



All meetings of the Planning Commission were open to the public, with in-person and Zoom options made available. An email list was compiled by canvassing the downtown area and utilizing list serves maintained by Visit Sitka. The email group had over 125 members and was notified of all upcoming meetings and plan updates. Newspaper, radio, and social media were also utilized to advertise meetings and opportunities for plan participation. A community survey was available from December 17 – January 9.

## MEETING DATES & TOPICS

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Body</b>                    | <b>Topic</b>  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 3/9/21      | Assembly                       | Assembly provided direction to staff and the Planning Commission to develop the plan                              |
| 4/13/21     | Assembly & Planning Commission | Joint Work Session between the Assembly and Planning Commission to develop the scope and deliverables of the plan |
| 5/5/21      | Planning Commission            | Introductory session with Planning Commission to review work plan and schedule and outline data/research needs    |
| 5/19/21     | Planning Commission            | Commission review of plan for Forums  |
| 5/20/21     | Planning Commission            | Attraction and Excursion Forum  |
| 6/2/21      | Planning Commission            | Public comment on passenger dispersal   |
| 6/3/21      | Planning Commission            | Downtown Business Forum   |
| 6/16/21     | Planning Commission            | Background information review   |
| 7/7/21      | Planning Commission            | Dispersion wrap-up and review of input from Forums  |
| 7/21/21     | Planning Commission            | Transportation alternatives   |
| 8/4/21      | Planning Commission            | Traffic from dock to downtown, Sawmill Creek Road Project, and Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive intersection             |
| 9/15/21     | Planning Commission            | Downtown traffic and congestion mitigation – public input and problem identification                              |
| 10/6/21     | Planning Commission            | Centennial Hall traffic and staging – public input and problem identification                                     |
| 10/13/21    | Ports & Harbors Commission     | Centennial Hall traffic and staging – Commission input and problem identification                                 |
| 10/20/21    | Planning Commission            | Analysis and recommendations for Lincoln Street traffic presented   |
| 11/3/21     | Planning Commission            | Direct-use infrastructure needs   |
| 11/10/21    | Ports & Harbors Commission     | Analysis and recommendations for Centennial Hall traffic and staging presented                                    |
| 11/17/21    | Planning Commission            | Analysis and recommendations for Centennial Hall traffic and staging presented                                    |
| 12/1/21     | Planning Commission            | Indirect infrastructure impacts and future planning needs   |
| 12/15/21    | Planning Commission            | Presentation of draft plan  |
| 1/12/22     | Ports & Harbors Commission     | Recommendation to adopt the Centennial Hall traffic and staging plans   |
| 1/13/22     | Assembly & Planning Commission | Joint work session to review draft plan and make suggestions for final draft                                      |
| 1/19/22     | Planning Commission            | Recommendation of plan for adoption   |
| 1/25/22     | Assembly                       | Discussion/direction on the final draft   |
| 2/8/22      | Assembly                       | <i>Plan adoption</i>  |

## II. DISPERSION

Downtown merchants, attraction and excursion operators, tourism industry representatives, and the general public were engaged to discuss the need for passenger dispersion, particularly on large ship days. “Large ship days” were defined as days with more than 6,000 passengers.

The latest preliminary 2022 cruise calendar was provided by Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska on November 29, 2021. Of the 159 days of the season (first sailing April 28<sup>th</sup> and last sailing is October 3<sup>rd</sup>), this is the breakdown of passenger loads:

| Number of Cruise Passengers | Number of Days in Season | Percent of Season |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 0                           | 21                       | 13%               |
| 1-999                       | 30                       | 19%               |
| 1,000 – 2,999               | 37                       | 23%               |
| 3,000 – 5,999               | 47                       | 30%               |
| 6,000 – 8,000+              | 24                       | 15%               |

The full calendar is provided in the appendix and color coded to correspond with the levels in the table above.

### DROP-OFF AND AVOIDANCE POINTS

Participants were asked to identify ideal locations to direct and/or drop-off passengers, as well as areas to avoid.

Drop-off points largely centered around locations near the downtown area including Harrigan Centennial Hall, the Library, the O’Connell Bridge dock, Totem Square or Totem Square Inn, the Katlian Avenue area including the Community House, Baranof Playground, Totem Park, and the Sitka Sound Science Center. It was also recommended that more dispersion points along Sawmill Creek and Halibut Point Road be developed in addition to attractions such as the Alaska Raptor Center and Fortress of the Bear.

Avoidance points for pick-up/drop-off that were generally agreed upon were Katlian Avenue (i.e. that this street should not be used to divert bus traffic from other streets as it is already congested, but that visitation to attractions and historical sites in this area should continue to be encouraged), residential areas, the Fine Arts Camp portion of the Sheldon Jackson Campus, and anywhere with traffic devices (near intersections, roundabouts, traffic lights, etc.).

Drop-off/pick-up on Lincoln Street and in front of St. Michael’s Cathedral was contended. While some advocated that this would bring visitors directly into the high-demand areas for shopping or site seeing, others felt that congestion on Lincoln Street should not be exacerbated.

While lightering/water taxiing was considered as a part of dispersion conversation, later discussions on transportation (see section III, Transportation) more fully analyzed the challenges associated with this type of operation. A map showing all drop-off and avoidance points as discussed was produced.





Public comment was also received during the Traffic section of the plan that additional attractions on Halibut Point Road should be considered in order to add more dispersion points. In particular, a suggestion was made that low-impact development in the No Name Mountain area for recreational use could benefit visitors and locals alike.

Though the recommendation in the plan is to continue using Harrigan Centennial Hall as the main drop-off point for dock-to-downtown shuttles, consideration of secondary locations should be made if COVID-19 mitigation requirements to segregate passengers by ship on the shuttles remain in place.

## **FINDINGS**

1. Quality of experience matters – too many passengers downtown or at any one attraction/site at once can detract from the quality of the passenger’s experience.
2. Cruise passengers should continue to be encouraged to come downtown for shopping and dining, seeing historic and culturally significant sites/attractions, and to recreate along the Seawalk and at the National Historical Park.
3. High quality, high visibility signage is needed to effectively disperse passengers dropped off in the downtown area.
4. Other means of communicating visitor information should be improved to keep things moving smoothly, particularly on large ship days. Particular areas of improvement include local communications of the cruise calendar and potential changes in traffic, a digital guidebook/site or app, shore-ex support at the dock and drop-off points, and training for bus drivers.
5. As visitor numbers grow, more attractions and excursions will be needed to meet demand and effectively disperse passengers throughout town.
6. Implementation of a looping shuttle system had both advocates and opponents.
  - a. Pro: A shuttle system would be an effective means of transporting passengers throughout town and address mobility issues many passengers may experience.
  - b. Con: A public and/or free shuttle system would negatively impact private industry transportation providers.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. While the dock-to-downtown shuttles will continue to bring passengers to Centennial Hall as their main drop-off and pick-up point, utilization of alternative drop-off points for tour operators and other transportation providers should be encouraged.
2. Commission large-scale signage to be strategically placed at major drop-off points.
3. Implement a mobile app and/or QR code system to assist with wayfinding and visitor information access conditional upon addressing limitations of cell and internet service.
4. Encourage growth of the attractions and excursions market.
5. Encourage development of a looping shuttle system and investigate ways to work with private industry transportation providers for public/private partnership opportunities.

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# III. TRANSPORTATION

## VISITOR TRANSPORTATION

### BY LAND

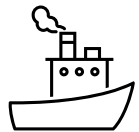


Currently, the transportation of passengers from the SSCT dock to the downtown area (referred to as “dock-to-downtown shuttling”) takes place via large buses with capacities ranging from approximately 48 to 60 passengers. Buses depart from the SSCT every 15 minutes, travel along Halibut Point Road to Lake Street, and continue through the traffic light at the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive intersection to arrive at Centennial Hall. From this point, passengers can walk to shopping and other attractions/destinations in the downtown area, meet their pre-booked tour, or purchase a tour/transportation offered for sale at Centennial. When they wish to return to SSCT, passengers come back to Centennial Hall to catch a departing shuttle. Some tour operators pick up directly from SSCT and will drop passengers off downtown, or back at SSCT directly.

Since 2013, CBS has entered into a Transit Services Contract to provide a subsidy of the dock-to-downtown shuttling operation using the Commercial Passenger Excise Tax revenue. The most recent contract for 2020 and 2021 provided a subsidy in the amount of \$1.07/passenger transported.

Considerable public interest for electrification of the large-scale visitor transportation services was voiced during the planning process. Concerns with the currently utilized diesel buses included the associated noise, air pollution, and carbon emissions. Industry representatives cited high investment costs (with estimates of \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 per bus of commensurate size) and lack of charging stations as the main barriers to conversion in the short-term.

### BY SEA



In the beginning stages of plan development, the concept of lightering/water taxi service to transport passengers from SSCT to the downtown area was discussed as a method of alleviating bus traffic and congestion on the road system. However, several challenges became apparent:

- A water taxi service would likely not be a profit-making operation as currently envisioned.
- Space at the SSCT dock is limited.
- Available locations that would bring passengers into downtown (primarily the O’Connell Bridge Dock or Crescent Harbor) would result in a lengthy ride due either to the required slow speeds travelling through the breakwater and Sitka Channel, or the added time diverting around the breakwater/channel via Western Channel and Middle Channel. Therefore, moving a significant enough number of passengers to meaningfully decrease bus transportation would require a large water taxi fleet both in terms of the size of the vessels as well as the number of vessels.
- The only identified dock facility that could work on the water transportation side (in terms of decreasing trip length) was the North Plant for Petro Marine. However, there is not adequate upland space for bus transportation that would be needed. Further, this would add significant bus traffic on Katlian Ave. which is already congestion-challenged.

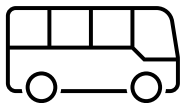
## RESIDENT TRANSPORTATION

Given the limitations of Sitka's road system and available public parking in the downtown area, impacts to the ease of resident transportation are inevitable with the growth of cruise passenger visitation. Multi-modal transportation offers potential to increase capacity of our existing infrastructure while reducing burdens to individual pieces of the transportation system. Three main areas were addressed as potential means of mitigating these impacts.



### ***BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMUTING***

Members of the public identified bicycle and pedestrian transportation as a means of alleviating downtown traffic and parking pressures. Creation and support of incentive programs were suggested to encourage participation. Additional bike shelters or racks downtown should be considered if incentive programs are pursued. While walking/biking may not be viable transportation alternatives for all, any alleviation of vehicular traffic and parking demand is beneficial and should be encouraged.



### ***PUBLIC TRANSIT***

Public transit is an integral component of multi-modal transportation system, enabling transportation for those without personal vehicles and offering an alternative to those who may wish to decrease personal vehicle reliance. Sitka's public transportation systems such as the RIDE and Care-a-Van should continue to be supported and opportunities to encourage ridership explored.



### ***PARKING SOLUTIONS***

Where possible, additional parking is needed in the downtown area for those who live, work, worship, shop, and recreate downtown. Private property owners are encouraged to open any available parking, and opportunities to maximize existing public parking should be pursued. Another suggested solution was a Park and Ride system wherein vehicles could be left at a larger lot outside of the downtown area, and a bus would run regularly between the vehicle parking and downtown. Increased enforcement of public parking regulations would also ensure that parking is being utilized as intended and prevent abuse/misuse of publicly available parking.

## **FINDINGS**

1. There is ample community interest in seeing electrification of bus fleets, particularly for large-scale transportation services. However, the high investment costs and lack of charging infrastructure present major hurdles for conversion to take place in the near term.
2. Similarly, water taxi services face investment and logistical challenges that make it an unsuitable transportation alternative in the near future. However, this may be a more feasible option in the future if a bus-accessible location were to be developed north of the Sitka Channel.
3. Multi-modal options and parking solutions are critical to meet resident transportation needs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Encourage and incentivize bicycling and walking as alternatives to vehicular transportation in order to decrease vehicular traffic congestion and alleviate parking pressure in the downtown area. CBS could partner with existing community organizations that promote walk and bike initiatives. Further, additional bike racks and/or shelters should be considered in the downtown area.
2. Long term, CBS should consider incentive structures that would encourage fleet electrification, particularly for dock-to-downtown shuttling services, and explore opportunities for installation of charging stations.
3. Opportunities to incentivize alternative transportation modes for residents should be pursued. Additionally, parking solutions such as expansion of parking in the downtown area or a Park and Ride arrangement will be needed as the visitor industry continues to grow.

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## IV. TRAFFIC

### HALIBUT POINT ROAD AND SAWMILL CREEK ROAD TRAFFIC

#### *DOCK TO DOWNTOWN – HALIBUT POINT ROAD*

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, representatives from ADOT joined the Planning Commission to discuss traffic along HPR and expected impacts resulting from both the increase in cruise visitor related traffic and developments along HPR such as growth of amenities at SSCT, the new Cross Trail connector in this area, and the adventure park at 4951 HPR. Suggestions from the public and the Commission fit largely into two main categories:



**Pedestrian safety improvements:** With increased traffic on HPR, more crosswalks (particularly lighted crosswalks) are desired to make street crossings safer. Suggested locations include the new Cross Trail connector across the street from 4951 HPR, the Seamount/Cascade Creek Road intersection, and at Brady Street (particularly in light of increased SEARHC development in this area). Further, development of a dedicated pedestrian path is desired between SSCT and the adventure park/Cross Trail connector. These latter attractions would also benefit from large, clear signage.



**Beautification/visitor enhancement:** Beautification projects along the HPR/Swan Lake sidewalk corridor and at the roundabout were suggested, with ideas ranging from painting/murals, signage, or banners. Development of additional attractions on HPR were also discussed (see section II. Dispersion).

Without supporting data from a traffic study, the justification for ADOT to make these changes will be difficult to substantiate. CBS and ADOT should continue to collaborate on traffic safety needs and work towards getting a traffic study for Sitka in the near future.

#### **SAWMILL CREEK ROAD PROJECT**

ADOT will be performing significant road work on Sawmill Creek Road in the summer of 2022 between the roundabout and the Sitka National Cemetery. The scope of the project includes stormwater infrastructure improvements, resurfacing, development of a new bus stop, and pedestrian safety improvements. While these improvements are certainly needed and will be of great community value, the construction season overlaps with the visitor season. SMC Road is a critical arterial right-of-way for traffic flow and its closure will significantly impact traffic efficiency.

Commission discussion and public comment emphasized the challenges most detour routes would present. Many large vehicles/equipment will struggle to use smaller collector and minor streets given narrowness and tight turns. There was also concern for traffic being diverted into residential neighborhoods which would exacerbate existing traffic speed/congestion problems.

While the traffic control plan (TCP) for the project will not be developed until a contractor is selected to execute the project, CBS and ADOT representatives have met to discuss some preliminary guidance a TCP should include. If the TCP includes use of CBS rights-of-way for detouring, CBS must first provide approval. CBS will continue to advocate that, to the greatest extent possible, traffic

flow be maintained at least one-way (outbound) through the project area before CBS rights-of-way are approved as detour routes.

## EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCESS

Proximate to the SSCT, the Sitka Fire Department would like to stage a small ATV ambulance that can be available for calls to the cruise ships or to the adventure park under development at 4951 HPR. The ATV ambulance itself will not be staffed or stocked for budget and security reasons. An ambulance will respond to calls in this area and go to the ATV ambulance first – crew will load in with kits and a gurney and will be directed to the patient from there. The ATV ambulance will then be used to transfer the patient into the full-sized ambulance for transportation to the hospital/other medical services.

The Police and Fire Departments were both included in planning for downtown traffic to ensure that any closures or changes in traffic pattern would not complicate emergency access. The Fire Department plans to continue responding from the Fire Department, sending ambulances to the nearest street or alley to the call, sending in crew, gurney, and equipment to meet the patient and wheeling back to ambulance. Any improvements of traffic flow in the downtown area, particularly decongestion of the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive Intersection and alleviating left-turn traffic into Harrigan Centennial Hall, will benefit speed and accessibility for emergency services.

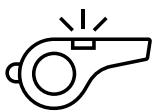
## DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC

### LAKE/LINCOLN/HARBOR DRIVE INTERSECTION

The intersection of Lake Street, Lincoln Street, and Harbor Drive appears to be the biggest bottleneck for downtown traffic flow. Vehicles turning left from Lake Street on to Lincoln Street do not have a dedicated turn lane or traffic control signal, and significant traffic flow from Japonski Island and that exiting the downtown area can make this turn difficult to make. Under these conditions, a few vehicles waiting to make this left turn can back traffic up to the roundabout which has domino effects for HPR and SMC traffic flow. In addition to the “left turn” issue, this intersection handles significant pedestrian crossing as well, which reduces the efficiency of vehicular traffic flow. Three mitigations/solutions were suggested:



**Left turn lane, Lake to Lincoln:** Having a dedicated left turn lane for Lake to Lincoln traffic flow could improve efficiency of the intersection, allowing straight-through and right-turn traffic to move independent of left-turn traffic. This could be accomplished with restriping.



**Traffic conductor:** Many members of the public recalled summer seasons in which a traffic conductor was stationed at this intersection to improve traffic flow. A well-trained traffic conductor can be more capable of adjusting and responding to real-time demands as opposed to the automated signal system. A traffic conductor could also enable implementation of the next suggestion.



**All-cross:** Instead of timing pedestrian traffic crossings with the vehicular signaling, some communities utilize an “all-cross” system in which all pedestrians waiting to cross can do so at once, regardless of which corner they are at. Diagonal movements are often permitted as well, cutting down on the number of crossings needed. No vehicular traffic can move at this time, but it removes pedestrian crossing as a delay during vehicular movement.

## LINCOLN STREET

The section of Lincoln Street from Lake Street to Katlian Avenue contains the majority of downtown retail stores, restaurants, churches, and historic sites. This area is beloved by locals and visitors alike for its authentic, small-town feel. Given its importance, discussion of plans for Lincoln Street took place throughout the planning process.

A level of service (LOS) analysis was completed to better understand the capacity limitations of the pedestrian space on Lincoln Street. As listed on the table below, different levels of service indicate the speed, freedom of movement, and likelihood of pedestrian-to-pedestrian collisions.

- LOS A indicates total free movement, at any speed, and almost no likelihood of bumping into another person.
- LOS F is akin to a people slowly shuffling in a queue, with no freedom to choose speed or direction of movement. Even at this extremely low level of service, the sidewalk space on Lincoln Street can only accommodate about 1600 pedestrians.
- Higher levels of service providing a more pleasant pedestrian experience are only possible in the 500-800 pedestrian range.

After reviewing the level of service analysis, it became apparent to the Planning Commission that sidewalk space alone on this stretch of Lincoln Street cannot comfortably support our forecasted visitor numbers. The full description of each level of service is available in the appendix.

### Lincoln Street Assumptions for LOS Analysis

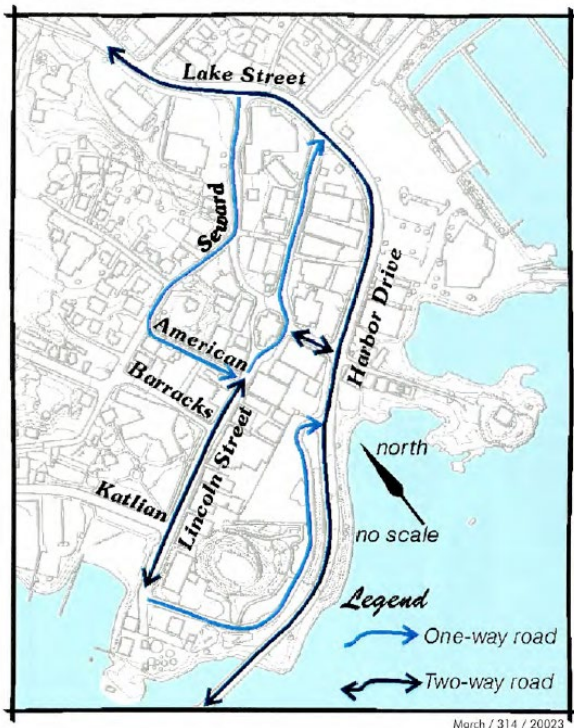
|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Driving Lane Width (x2) | 12 ft.      |
| Parking Lane Width (x2) | 8 ft.       |
| Sidewalk Width (x2)     | 5 ft.       |
| Length of Street        | 1,300 ft.   |
| Total Square Footage    | 65,000 s.f. |

### Pedestrians supported at each LOS

|                                  | Total pedestrian S.F. available | Pedestrians supported at each LOS |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  |                                 | LOS A                             | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F |
| No closure – sidewalk space only | 13,000                          | 213                               | 317   | 520   | 813   | 1,444 | 1,625 |

Staff reviewed and analyzed several options; some were options proposed in the Gateway Plan and others were a result of public comment/staff generation – all are described and detailed below. The first five options presented were studied, but ultimately not recommended by staff for consideration. Staff review included Planning, Public Works, Police, and Fire departments. Recommended options start on page 19.

## Studied Options - Not Recommended



Lincoln Street is two-way between Katlian and American; it becomes a one-way from American to Harbor Drive for east-bound traffic. West-bound traffic enters Lincoln via Seward and American streets. To make more room for wider sidewalks, on street parking is removed from one side of Lincoln and accommodated in the Castle Hill lot.

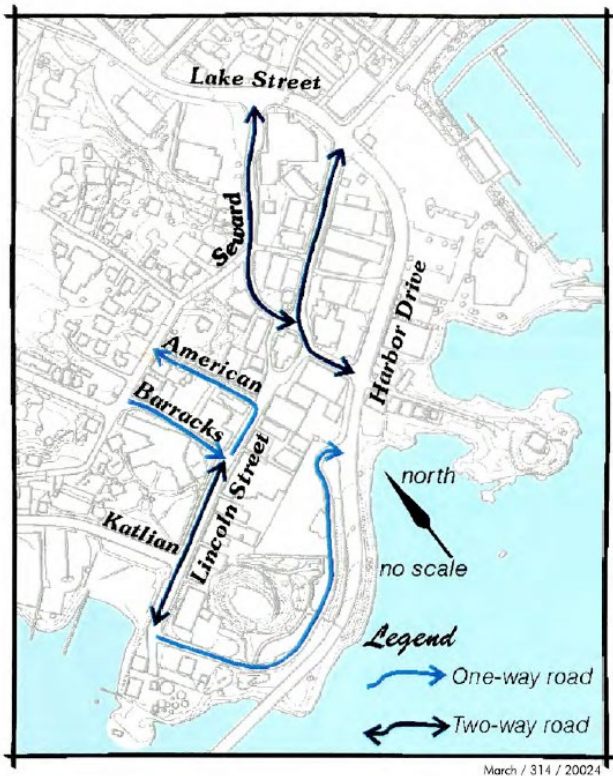
### Gateway Plan Option 1

#### Pros

- Maintains vehicular access to downtown amenities
- Could maintain downtown parking

#### Cons

- Funnels traffic to substandard routes (Seward & American)
- Does not make optimal use of Harbor Drive
- Does not create more space for pedestrians on the west end of Lincoln where more is needed
- Would be confusing as a temporary solution (i.e. if not in place consistently day-to-day during the season or as a built design)



There is 2-way traffic on Lincoln Street between Katlian and Barracks; American becomes one-way going north and Barracks becomes one-way going south. Lincoln is closed around St. Michael's except on the southeast side.

### Gateway Plan Option 2

#### Pros

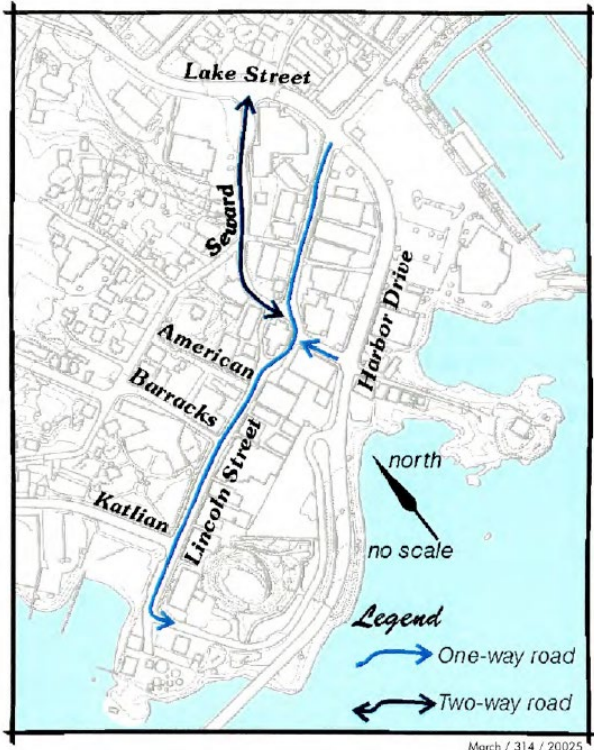
- Maintains vehicular access to downtown amenities
- Could maintain downtown parking
- Removes traffic from in front of St. Michael's

#### Cons

- Funnels traffic to substandard routes (Seward & Cathedral, American & Barracks). Cathedral Way lacks adequate width to be two-way without major redesign/loss of parking
- Does not make optimal use of Harbor Drive
- Does not create more space for pedestrians on the west end of Lincoln where it is needed
- Would be confusing as a temporary solution (i.e. if not in place consistently day-to-day during the season or as a built design)



### Gateway Plan Option 3



Lincoln Street is one-way, running from east to west. All traffic flows around the south side of St. Michael's, leaving room for pedestrians on the north.

#### Pros

- Maintains vehicular access to downtown amenities
- Could maintain some downtown parking

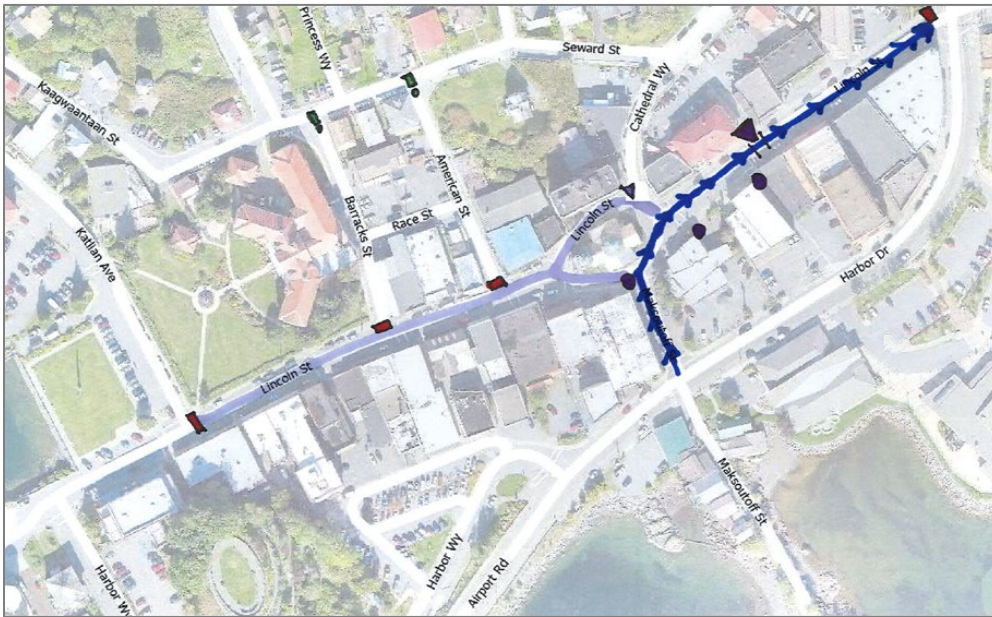
#### Cons

- Funnels traffic to substandard routes (Seward & Cathedral). Cathedral Way lacks adequate width to be two-way without major redesign/loss of parking
- Does not work well as a temporary (rather than built) solution – traffic would have to cross lanes and go the “wrong way” around the church.
- In order to keep Cathedral, American, and Barracks open, traffic would have to cross pedestrian spaces which can exacerbate bottlenecks at these intersections

Overall, the downtown traffic designs as proposed in the Sitka Gateway Plan are more suited to permanent/built alterations of streets and traffic flows in the downtown area as opposed to temporary solutions created with signage, barricades, cones, etc. None are suitable for regular mobilization and demobilization if flexibility based on daily passenger count is desired.

Staff considered ways that the Gateway Plan recommendations could be modified to better suit a temporary/short-term option. Those concepts are presented on the next page, though neither are recommended options.

## Modified Gateway Options 1 and 2











### Pros

- Maintains vehicular access to bank drive-thrus
- Could maintain some downtown parking
- Opens pedestrian space on the west end of Lincoln

### Cons

- Adds left-turn traffic to Lake/Lincoln intersection
- Intensive to mobilize and demobilize regularly

| KEY   |                              |   |                         |
|---|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|    | Pedestrian Only              |   | No Left Turn Sign       |
|  | One-way Street               |  | No Right Turn Sign      |
|  | Vehicle Crossing Designation |  | No Entry Sign/Barricade |
|  | Pull-in Parking Spots        |  | No Outlet Sign          |

## Modified Gateway Option 3



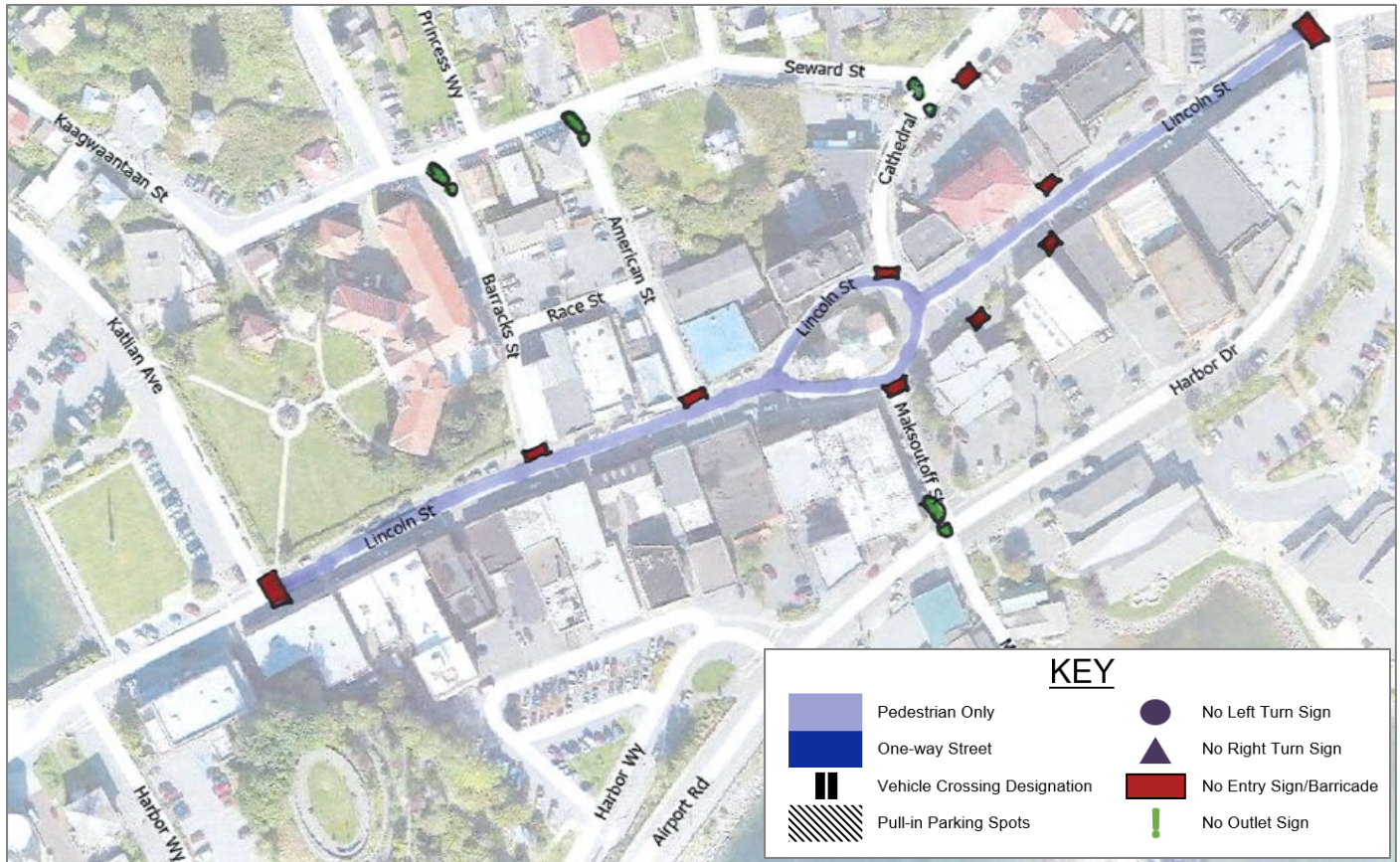
### Pros

- Maintains vehicular access on bank drive-thru and pharmacy side of street
- Maintains some downtown parking
- Opens pedestrian/amenity/vending space in west bound lane

### Cons

- Adds left turn traffic at Lake/Lincoln intersection
- More streets (Cathedral, American, Barracks) either need to be closed or will have to cut across pedestrian space

**Full Closure Option**



**Description**

- Lincoln Street is closed to vehicles from the Lake/Lincoln Intersection to the Lincoln/Katlian Intersection
- Feeder routes (Barracks, American, Meksoutoff, Cathedral, and other unnamed alleys) blocked from entry
- Closures could be on a consistent schedule (M-F) or based on daily passenger count

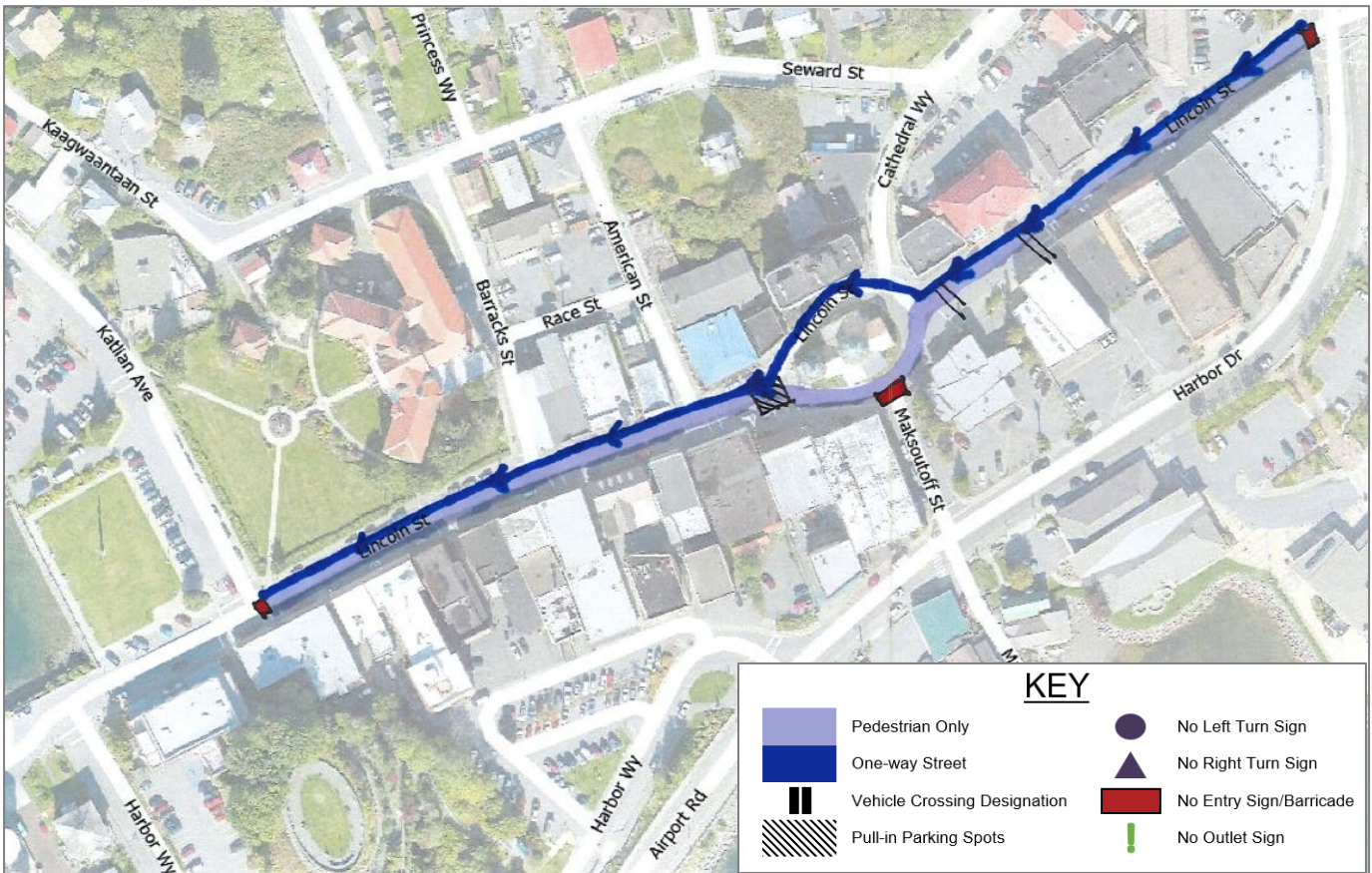
**Pros**

- Allows maximum pedestrian space and clearly separates pedestrians from vehicles
- Opens maximum spaces for amenities (benches, water stations, garbage cans, potentially vending, etc.)
- Equitable for both ends/sides of Lincoln Street merchants/entities

**Cons**

- Maximum loss of parking
- Maximum impact on vehicular access to locally demanded services (primarily pharmacy and bank drive-thrus)
- Complicates Pioneer Home emergency access
- Necessitates new downtown stop for The Ride
- Congestion remains around Totem Square/end of Lincoln

## One-Way Option



### Description

- Lincoln Street remains open to vehicular traffic one-way westbound
- Pedestrian space and amenity/vending staging can take place in the eastbound traffic/parking lanes. Amenities/vending could potentially be staged for the whole season. This would decrease labor needs for daily mobilization/demobilization and allow locals and independent travelers to partake in off-hours
- “Vehicle crossing designations” available at bank drive-thrus
- A temporary median would be needed to separate pedestrians and vehicles
- Pull-in parking spaces designated near churches
- Would be in place all season (too labor/storage intensive to mobilize/demobilize daily)

### Pros

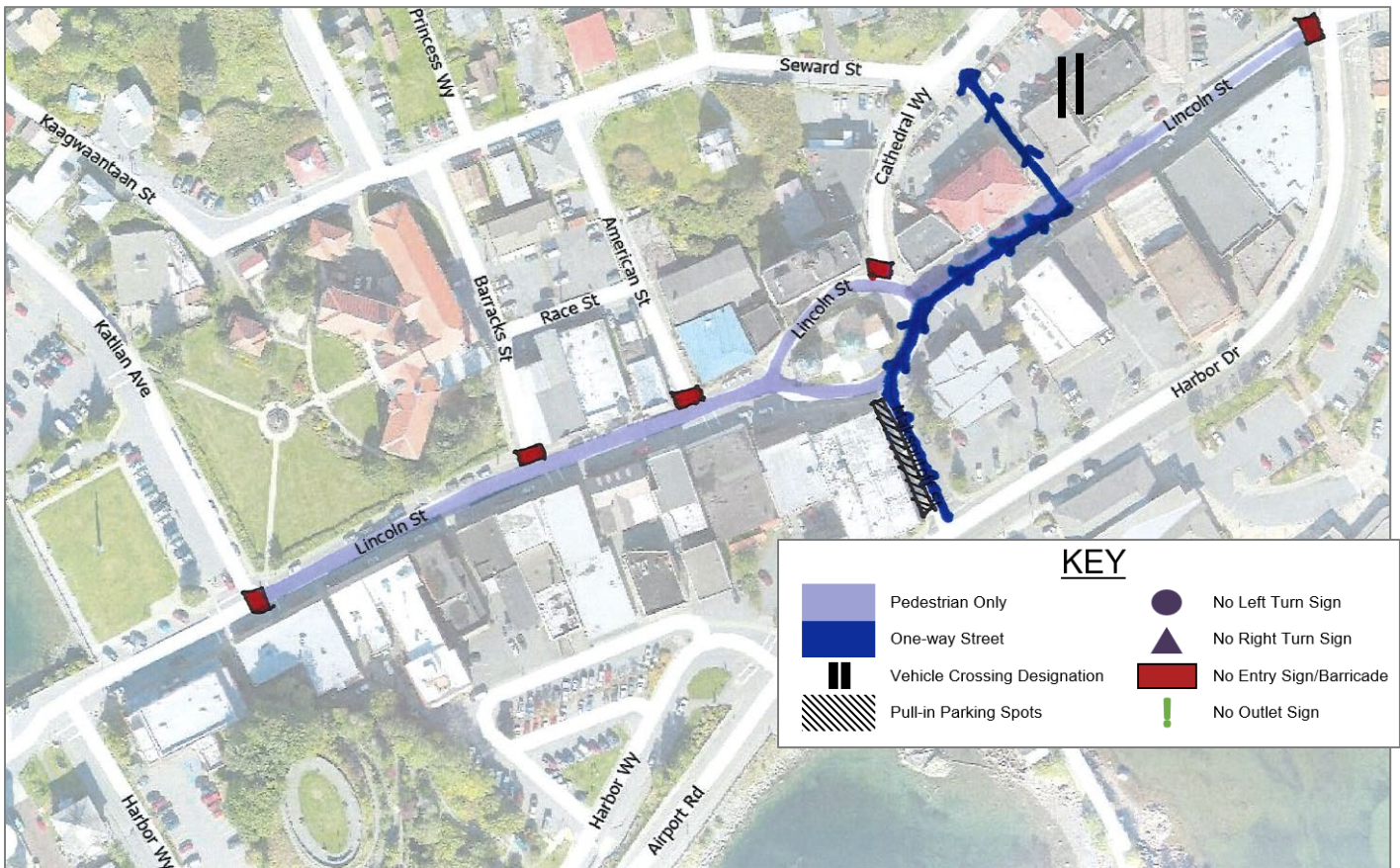
- Allows more vehicular access to Lincoln Street while reducing pedestrian and vehicle conflict
- Maintains vehicular access to downtown amenities & use of bank drive-thrus
- Lower loss of parking
- Provides for better emergency access to Pioneer Home
- Possible reduction in jaywalking due to median barriers

### Cons

- Less space opened for pedestrians and other amenities
- Vehicles and pedestrians still intermingled to some degree
- Necessitates new downtown stop for The Ride
- Congestion remains around Totem Square/end of Lincoln
- North side of street gets vehicular access but less pedestrian space, vice versa for the south

A **Hybrid Option** was also proposed as a recommended option. Lincoln could be fully closed when needed (perhaps based on passenger volume) but staged to re-open as the One-Way Option. This would allow for amenities and potential vending to be staged in the east bound lane for the whole season and not have to demobilize when the street is reopened. This provides more flexibility to accommodate moderate and high passenger count days. However, it comes with the pros and cons of both options when in place and would be more labor intensive than the One-Way Option alone.

A **Full Closure Modification** was also sketched to address accessibility for bank drive-thrus. The design below allows one-way traffic up Maksoutoff St., in part of the eastbound lane of Lincoln, and then directs traffic up the unnamed alley between 315 and 321 Lincoln. This would create proper vehicle alignment to utilize all three of the downtown bank drive-thrus, accommodate for ADA access from Lincoln Street, and it would also open the opportunity to add pull-in parking along Maksoutoff Street in the unused lane. However, the crossing from the eastbound lane to the westbound lane to access the alley will be difficult to design. Traffic movement onto Seward Street will increase use of the uncontrolled intersection at Seward and Lake Streets, while not included in the plan recommendations, a traffic conductor may be needed if this option is selected.



The level of service analysis was then updated to include the two main recommended options along with a comparison matrix.

**Pedestrians supported at each LOS**

|                                  | Total pedestrian S.F. available | Pedestrians supported at each LOS |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  |                                 | LOS A                             | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F |
| No closure – sidewalk space only | 13,000                          | 213                               | 317   | 520   | 813   | 1,444 | 1,625 |
| Full Closure Option              | 65,000                          | 1,066                             | 1,585 | 2,600 | 4,063 | 7,222 | 8,125 |
| One-Way Option                   | 39,000                          | 639                               | 951   | 1,560 | 2,438 | 4,333 | 4,875 |

**Option Comparison Matrix**

| Factors            | Full Closure Option  | One-Way Option   |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Parking            | ✗ Highest impact on parking  | ✓ Moderate impact on parking   |
| Convenience        | ✗ Highest impact on vehicular access to downtown retail and services                       | ✓ Lesser impact on vehicular access to downtown retail and services  |
| Pedestrian Safety  | ✓ Best separation of vehicles and pedestrians  | ✗ Some intermingling of vehicles and pedestrians   |
| Visitor Experience | ✓ Maximum pedestrian and amenity space   | ✗ Moderate pedestrian and amenity space  |
| Logistics          | ✗ Very labor intensive for set-up and take down on a daily/weekly basis                    | ✗ Needs most equipment for temporary medians/fencing   |
| Flexibility        | ✓ Provides flexibility to be fully open in off-hours/days and change with passenger levels | ✗ Has to stay in place season-long – too labor and storage intensive to demobilize regularly                     |
| Amenities/Vending  | ✗ No opportunity to permanently stage amenities/vending for season                         | ✓ Opportunity to permanently stage amenities/vending for full season and offers off-hour enjoyment opportunities |

✓ Comparative Advantage    ✗ Comparative Disadvantage

After consideration of these options and hearing public comment, the Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend the Full Closure Option from 10am to 4pm on days with 3,000 or more cruise passengers with the stipulation that efforts to find downtown parking solutions be prioritized.

## **HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL**

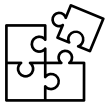
Harrigan Centennial Hall (HCH) has long served as our main “hub” for cruise ship passengers given its proximity to Crescent Harbor (which was the main lightering facility when ships largely anchored offshore) and use as a visitor center. Since the development of SSCT, HCH has continued to serve as a hub for cruise passengers, shifting its function to become, in part, shuttle bus terminal. It’s downtown location, unique “loop” driveway design, space for vendors and visitor services, the co-location of the Sitka Public Library and Sitka History Museum, and large public restrooms make HCH a critical and inimitable facility to support cruise passenger visitation in Sitka. Therefore, careful consideration of use at this facility was necessary for this plan in order to achieve more efficient traffic flow in all of the downtown area, effective passenger dispersion, high quality visitor experience, and equitable access for tour operators/vendors of all sizes.

Formation of the traffic and staging plan for HCH is a result of feedback from public forums at the Planning Commission, review with the Ports and Harbors Commission, extensive observation and analysis from the HCH, Planning, and Public Works departments, and interviews with industry representatives.

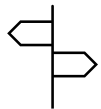
### General Provisions and Principles:



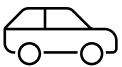
**Safety:** Safety is our number one priority. With the mass of people, and mix of vehicles (personal cars, taxis, tour vans and buses, etc.), we wanted any plan to minimize vehicle and pedestrian interaction.



**Space optimization:** While space is limited, it can be optimized by having proper staging and line formation. Therefore, our recommendations are based largely on making efficient use of space and identifying both vehicle space and corresponding queuing space. Heavy emphasis was placed on optimization of available public parking.



**Simplicity/clarity:** While some level of confusion is unavoidable with this number of visitors, emphasis was placed on solutions that made directions and staging both simple and clear.



**Alleviating pressure on the parking lot:** The HCH/Crescent Harbor parking lot is a high demand parking area given its proximity to the harbor and the downtown area. In our planning process, efforts have been made to maximize available parking in this lot.

### Enabling Factors for Recommendations:



**“Load and Go” Operations:** Given the limited space and high demand, excessive parking/idling times need to be curbed.



**Permitting:** In order to ensure more equitable and orderly access, a more structured permitting system will be needed for HCH summer operations. The details of that permitting structure should be included in “future planning needs”.



**Vehicle Restrictions:** In order to avoid pedestrian/vehicle conflict, some areas of the campus need to be restricted to pedestrian only use when cruise ships are in port. This largely affects the “tabletop” that connects Areas A and I, and the rear of the building. Further detail is provided below.

For ease of reference, Centennial was divided into different areas or zones with recommendations organized by each area:

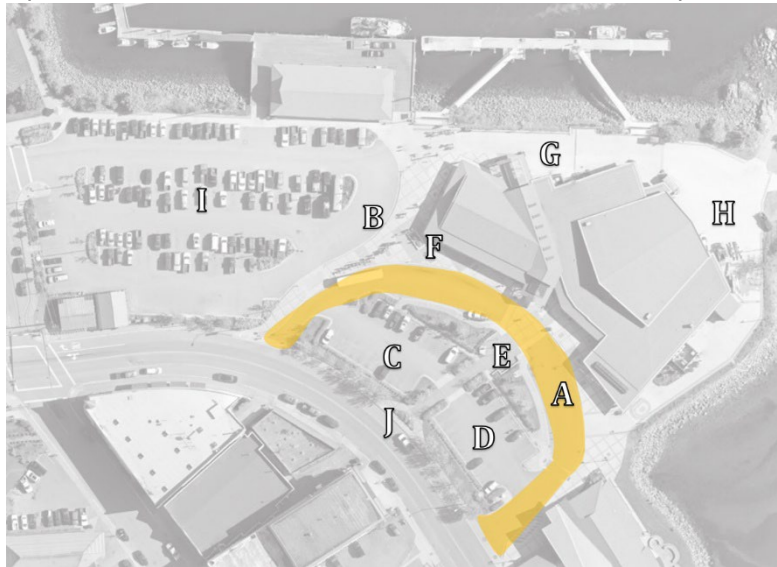




**Area A**

- Option 1: Dedicated dock-to-downtown shuttle use: Loop dedicated to large shuttles that transport passengers in mass from the HPR dock to downtown. The outer part of this loop (opposite the building, adjacent to green spaces), can be used for setting up stanchions or other queuing methods to line up passengers waiting to get back on shuttles.

Option 1: Dedicate Area A to dock-to-downtown shuttle operations

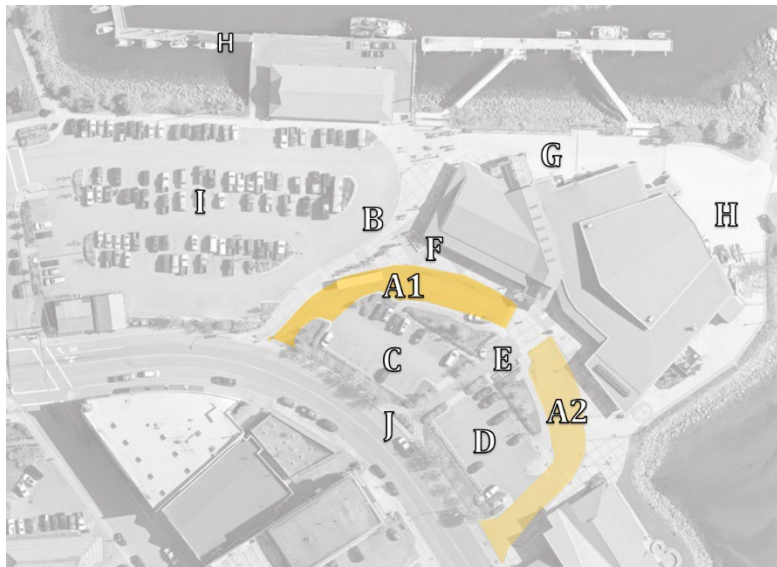


Pros: Maximizes space for high volume operation, prevents domino effects of bottlenecks/delays.

Cons: Redirects all other bus traffic to Area B, and lulls in shuttling demand underutilizes space.

- Option 2: Dock-to-downtown and large bus use: Utilize half of this area (the half closer to the Library labelled as Area A2 in the diagram below) for large tour buses and the other half for the large shuttle service. Given that most tours are wrapping up their drop-offs/pick-ups by mid-afternoon, the entire loop could be dedicated to shuttle services after a certain time (~3pm) to accommodate the evening, “last call” rush.

Option 2: Use Area A for both dock-to-downtown shuttles and large tour buses



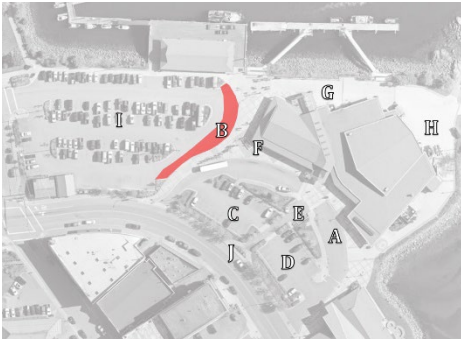
Pros: Fully utilizes space throughout the day. Decongests Area B and Area I.

Cons: Midday will have overlapping peaks in demand for shuttling and tour drop-offs or transfers, may become severely congested.

- Logistics: For either Option 1 or Option 2, the tabletop that connects the larger parking lot, I, to the large loop A will need to be closed to vehicular traffic. Passengers will unload on the sidewalk and be encouraged to stay on sidewalks to disperse towards the Seawalk, downtown, or to tour vendors/outfitters. Closure of this tabletop will better separate cars and pedestrians.

## Area B

- Concept: This loop will be dedicated for van and bus tour operations. Vans and buses will enter the lot from Lincoln Street, loop around the Harbor Drive side of the lot, and then line up along the curb. Passengers will utilize plaza space between B & F for queuing. Vans and buses will also exit the parking lot via the Lincoln Street connection.
- Logistics: Parking (approximately 3-4 spaces) may need to be limited in the corner of Area I immediately adjacent to the Harbor Drive/Lincoln intersection so that buses can make the turn. With the tabletop closed, this will increase curb space for vans/buses. Queuing of passengers is critical to keep things organized and prevent vans/buses from idling for extended periods of time. This loop will likely require the most active management to keep efficient.

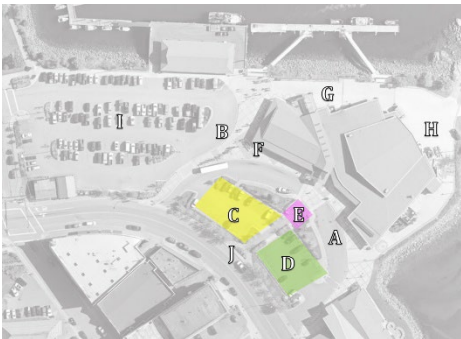


Pros: Decongests Area A and provides adequate space. Loading from sidewalk safer as opposed to outer loop of A. Many are turning right for SMC attractions; avoids intersection, roundabout, and SMC Road Project.

Cons: Will require active management to avoid long idle times. Depending on bus size utilizing loop, 3-4 parking spaces near intersection may need to be blocked on ship days.

## Areas C, D, and E

- Concept: Largely unchanged for current parking lot use. Area C may be used for outfitter overflow depending on demand for Area H. Area E will be kept clear to aid in safe pedestrian crossing and queuing.

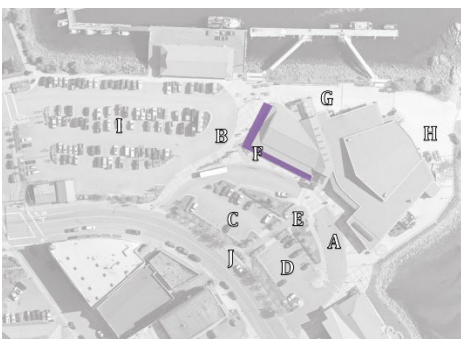


Pros: Preserves parking for HCH, Library, and downtown. Removes outfitting from Area I.

Cons: Some intermingling of vehicles and pedestrians still present by keeping these parking lots open. Adds traffic to the inlet and outlet of Area A.

## Area F

- Concept: This area will continue to be used for tour vendors/operators to have signs and liaisons staged. Some vendors (primarily the youth vending tables) may continue to be staged in this area depending on the demand/pressure for space. Some passenger queuing space may be needed on the side of the museum, particularly in late afternoon.

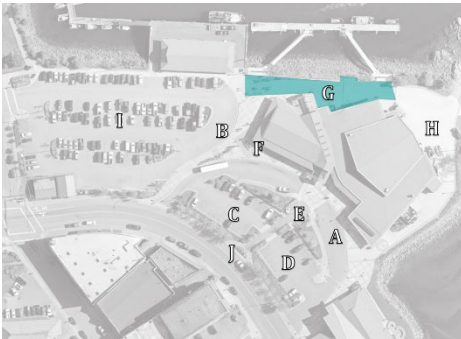


Pros: Provides weather protected space for people & signs. Halfway point between Area A2 and B (if Option 2 for Area A selected).

Cons: Can get congested when shuttles offload.

## Area G

- **Concept:** This area's use is highly dependent on tendering, as security requirements for tendering may limit use of the area. Per the most current cruise schedule (subject to change), it is anticipated that we will have 31 days of one ship tendering, 11 days of two ships tendering, and 2 days of three ships tendering throughout the season. On non-tendering days or one ship tendering days, the portion of Area G closest to the I parking lot may be used for queuing space.
- **Logistics:** The bollards that block vehicle traffic located in G will be up when either ships are tendering to Crescent Harbor or on days that ships that shuttle passengers to HCH are in port. When tendering, vehicles cannot pass through this area for security reasons. When ships are not tendering, the plans for Area H will require bollards in G to be up.

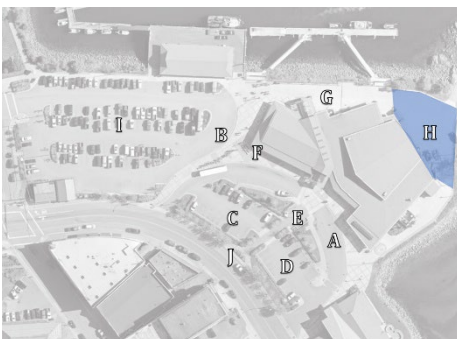


**Pros:** Dovetail security requirements and pedestrianization of Area H. Leaves O'Connell available for staging. Efficiency in Harbor Dept. support of tendering.

**Cons:** Restricts vehicular access to rear of building and launch ramp

## Area H

- **Concept:** This area will be utilized for outfitters and as open plaza space. This will remove outfitters from Area I. If overflow space is needed (i.e., there is more demand for outfitting space than H can accommodate), Area C will be utilized, or potentially new area can be created adjacent to sidewalk on the Lincoln Street side of the Net Shed.
- **Logistics:** Vehicular access to this area needs to be restricted in order to prevent pedestrian/vehicle conflict. Given the blind corners around the back of the building, inattentive pedestrians looking at the view, and outfitters needing staging space, staff highly recommends limiting vehicular access when either ships are tendering into Crescent Harbor or when ships that shuttle passengers to HCH are in port. Staff will work to stage outfitters in such a way that the launch is accessible on non-ship days.

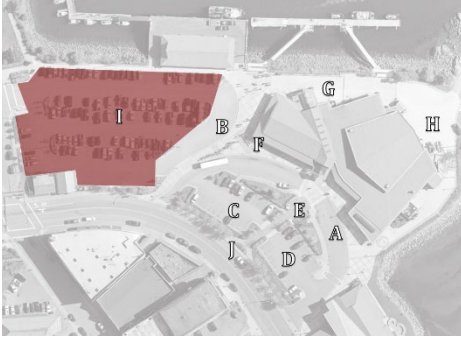


**Pros:** Reduces vehicle/pedestrian conflict in area with blind corners. Removes outfitters from Parking Area I. Launch can be utilized for kayaks, paddle boards, etc.

**Cons:** Restricts vehicular access to rear of building and launch ramp.

## Area I

- Concept: Maximize public parking in this lot. Look for opportunities to expand vendor space and parking space.
- Logistics: It is possible that 3-4 spaces may need to be blocked on ship days so that the Area B concept can work. These could be turned into short-term parking (less than 24 hours) to make them available on non-ship days.

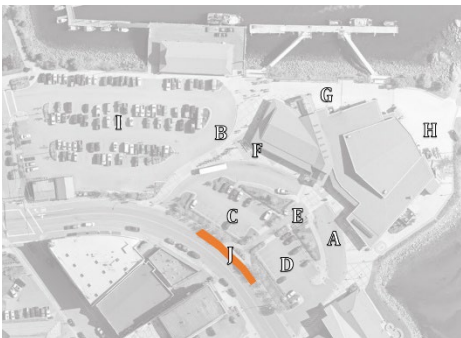


Pros: Parking is already pressured in this lot and will undoubtedly be exacerbated in the upcoming summer season. Concept maximizes available parking.

Cons: Those outfitting for vessel excursions will have a longer distance to walk with clients.

## Area J

- Concept: Work with ADOT to dedicate curbside space for taxi bank. Include high visibility signage.
- Logistics: Some signage will be required to reserve the space as well as direct passengers to this area. If we are unable to secure this space from ADOT, back-up plans for taxis are under consideration in Areas B, C, or I.



Pros: Taxi's require more advertising/idle time; this concept creates dedicated space for taxi needs that does not impact areas requiring more active, "load and go" operations.

Cons: Will need to ensure visibility to direct potential customers. Permission from ADOT required as not a CBS ROW.

## Other Overall Considerations

This influx of passengers will demand more support staff at HCH and for the Harbor Department, at least on a seasonal basis. Also, to disperse passengers throughout town, more attractions/excursions will be needed. However, this will place more pressure on space at HCH and at Crescent Harbor. New permitting structures may be needed to adequately manage the operational and financial demands this level of activity brings.

## FINDINGS

1. Improvements to pedestrian safety are needed along Halibut Point Road as more attractions and visitor-destinations are developed.
2. Careful consideration of detouring routes associated with the 2022 SMC Road Project will be needed in order to mitigate traffic delays.
3. As the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor intersection is critical for system-wide efficiency, any efforts to improve flow through this intersection should be prioritized.
4. Without a combination of dispersion efforts and changes to traffic patterns/management, Lincoln Street will be less safe and less enjoyable on large ship days.
5. Downtown parking is already strained; this pressure will be exacerbated by potential plans to make all or part of Lincoln Street pedestrian only on large ship days. All parking solutions from increased enforcement, additional parking, or Park and Ride systems should be considered.
6. Efficiency of traffic and people flow into and out of Harrigan Centennial Hall is key to system-wide efficiency. Increased vehicular traffic in the area necessitates more pedestrian safety measures than in the past.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CBS and ADOT Collaboration
  - a. Request that ADOT complete a traffic study of Sitka to support the following:
    - i. Pedestrian safety improvements along HPR
    - ii. Changes/optimization at the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive intersection
    - iii. Improvements needed system-wide
  - b. CBS should seek approval from ADOT for:
    - i. Redesign of traffic flow/timing through the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive and Airport Road/Harbor Drive intersections either by way of signal improvements or use of a traffic conductor
    - ii. Dedication of "Area J" in front of Centennial Hall as a taxi bank for the summer season
2. Adopt a street-closure plan for Lincoln Street to promote pedestrian safety and downtown experience. Where possible, mitigate adverse parking impacts and alleviate accessibility challenges for core community services. Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend the Full Closure Option from 10am to 4pm on days with 3,000 or more cruise passengers with the stipulation that efforts to find downtown parking solutions be prioritized.
3. Adopt the traffic and staging plan for Harrigan Centennial Hall, and prioritize permit restructuring to support this new level of activity.

# V. INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUTURE PLANNING NEEDS

## DIRECT USE INFRASTRUCTURE

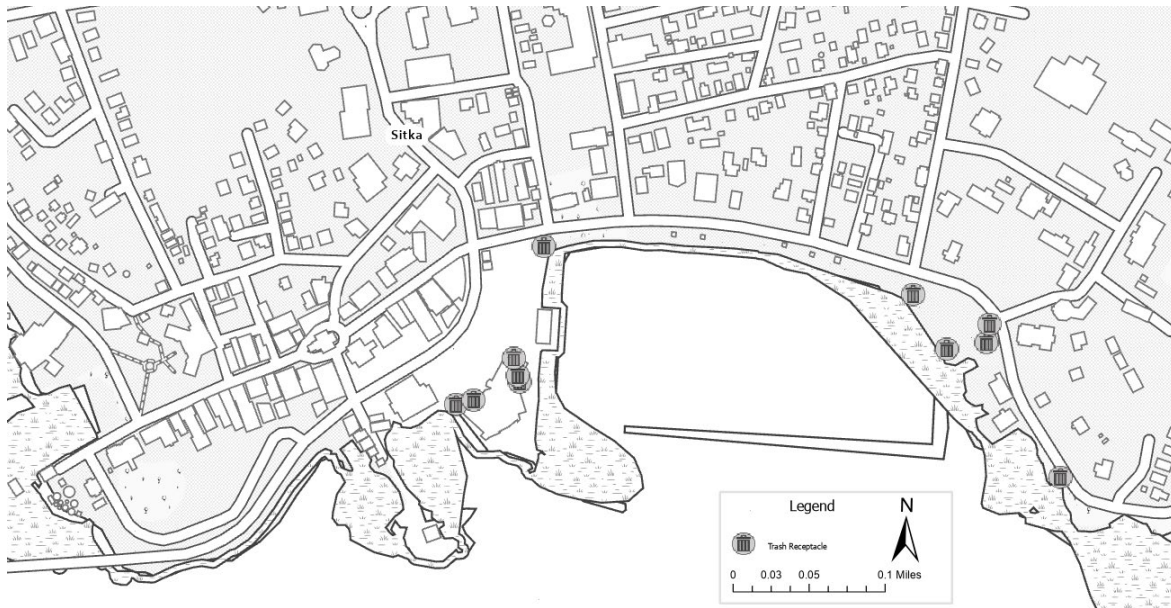
**Bathrooms:** In the downtown area, there are public restroom facilities located at the O’Connell Bridge dock, City Hall, the Lake/Lincoln/Harbor Drive intersection, the Library, Centennial Hall, and Crescent Harbor. Restrooms frequently came up as a top infrastructure concern throughout the planning process. In the long term, development of additional or expanded restroom facilities will likely be needed to support growing cruise tourism numbers. In the short-term, the two most feasible solutions are to bring in temporary restroom facilities and/or incentivizing downtown businesses, churches, or other entities to open their restrooms to the public. Temporary restroom facilities could be located within Crescent Park to supplement existing facilities and fill gaps along the Seawalk. Other suggested areas for placement of temporary restroom facilities included Totem Square and along Lincoln Street (Lake to Katlian) if possible with street-closure.



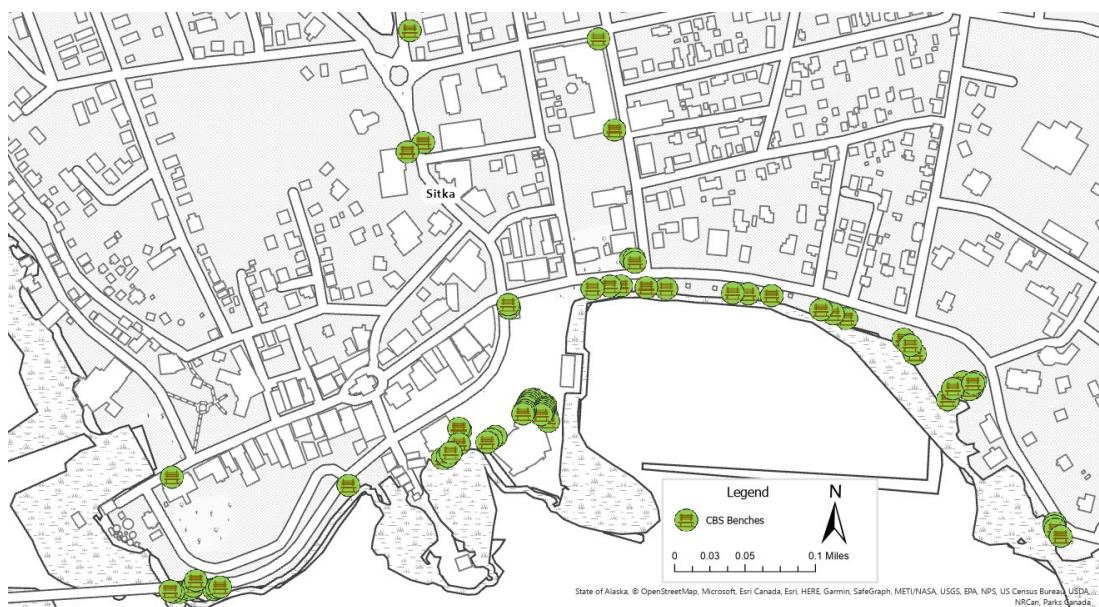
**Water stations:** Water fountains are available at Crescent Park, City Hall, Centennial Hall, and the Library, with the latter three locations also including water bottle filling stations. Installation of additional water stations will be most feasible if co-located on/in public buildings already served by water, wastewater, and power.



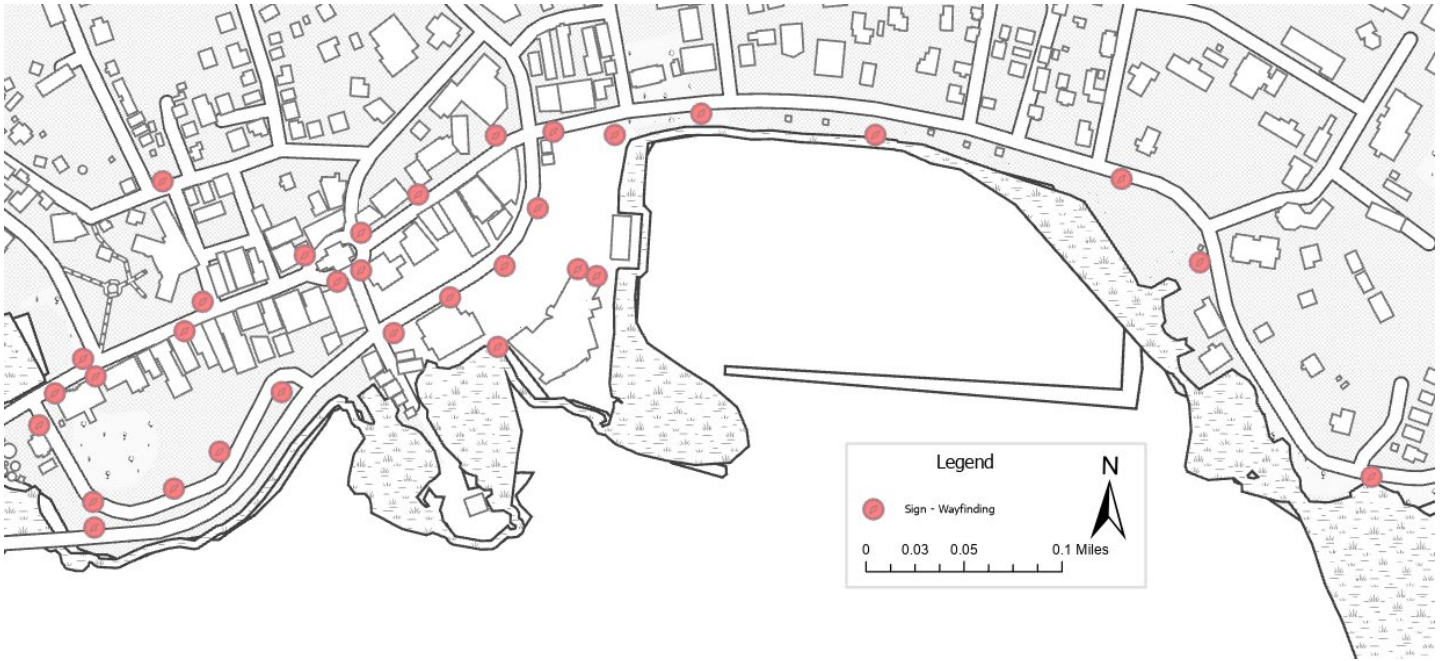
**Solid Waste:** Additional trash cans will be needed in the downtown area, as will more regular service to collect and dispose of solid waste. If more recycling is to be encouraged, recycling receptacles and scheduled pick-up will be needed.



**Benches:** There are approximately 70 CBS owned benches in the downtown area, spanning from the O’Connell Bridge dock to the end of the Seawalk. Addressing additional seating/rest area needs could be accomplished through Lincoln Street plans. The Full Closure Option could create space for downtown businesses/entities to place more benches proximate to their buildings, as sidewalk space will not be as scarce. However, this would require movement of benches/seating when the street is reopened. The One-Way Option, or Hybrid Option, could enable more permanent staging of these fixtures for the summer season. Additionally, the approximately 275-foot-long wall and poured concrete bench along the Pioneer Home campus on Lincoln Street could be used more comfortably for seating if additional walking space were available. In the One-Way Option, more CBS benches could be stationed along sidewalks or in the unused driving/parking lanes.



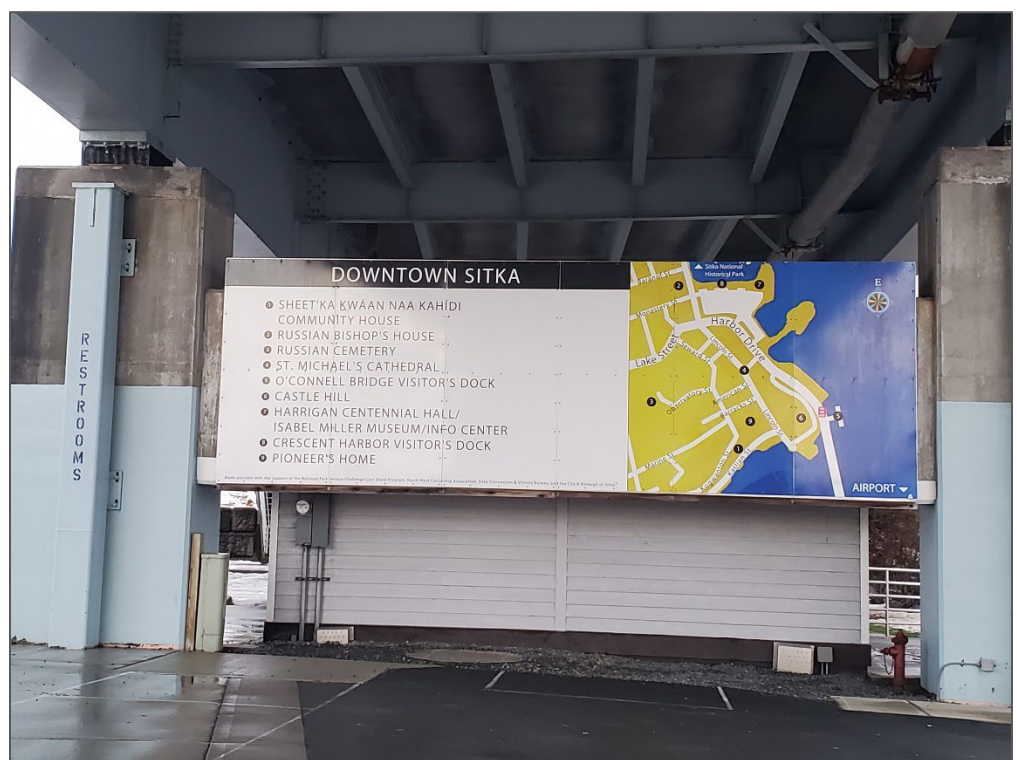
**Signage/Wayfinding:** Accessible and clear wayfinding signs are essential to ensure visitor enjoyment of all Sitka has to offer. There are approximately 60 wayfinding signs throughout Sitka, with 32 signs located in the downtown area. All signs display a map that provides the locations of amenities and attractions and indicates the viewer’s location with a “You Are Here” symbol. Increased effort should be made to educate visitors of the wayfinding tools available. This could be accomplished by a large wayfinding map at passenger hubs that is consistent in design with existing wayfinding.



Example Wayfinding Sign



O’Connell Bridge Dock Wayfinding Sign





## INDIRECT-USE INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES

The impacts to indirect-use infrastructure and resources requires a more specialized/in-depth study that the scope of this plan did not entail, but recognition of those impacts as well as plans to address them in the future were important outcomes of this plan. Significant public comment was received expressing concern about these difficult-to-quantify impacts.

Impacted CBS infrastructure includes roads, water and wastewater systems, solid waste disposal, trails, and facilities regularly used by cruise passengers (HCH, Library, restrooms, etc.). At this time, it is anticipated that our infrastructure will be able to handle increased visitor-use based on the capacity/design of these systems. The biggest unknown is the extent of additional “wear and tear” resulting from increased cruise passenger use.

Identified community-wide infrastructure and resources that are impacted by cruise visitation include housing, telecommunications, environment, and the workforce.

## FUTURE PLANNING NEEDS

Given the identified needs and impacts, three future planning areas were outlined:

1. **Impact Study:** A comprehensive impact study should be commissioned to understand the impacts of cruise visitation (particularly in the context of rising forecasted passenger volumes) on CBS infrastructure and community infrastructure/resources. A main deliverable of this study should be opportunities to utilize CPET funds for offsetting identified impacts in an objective, formulaic manner.
2. **Traffic Study:** CBS should request that ADOT perform a system-wide traffic study, and that it be performed during the summer months in order to capture peak use data. 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. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to support an Assembly request of ADOT to conduct this study as soon as possible.
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.

## FINDINGS

1. Direct-use infrastructure will face significantly higher use and reliance than in previous years. Additional support services to maintain their use will also be required.
2. Keeping up with street maintenance and striping is important to encourage compliance with traffic patterns.
3. Improved cell and internet services are needed to accommodate higher visitor numbers in the summer.

4. While not yet quantifiable, it is recognized that increased cruise passenger visitation will have an impact on CBS infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater services, solid waste management, trails, and other facilities. Also, community-wide infrastructure and resources such as the workforce, housing, the environment, and telecommunications will be impacted.
5. Though the scope of this plan was focused on the near-term, considerable community input was received during the planning process expressing interest in long-term planning related to the visitor industry.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Health and Sanitation
  - a. Near-term Solutions
    - i. Utilization of temporary restroom facilities in the downtown area.
    - ii. Incentives for private property owners in the downtown area to open their restrooms to the public.
    - iii. Adding water stations to existing public restroom facilities.
    - iv. Increased trash cans are needed downtown, particularly on Lincoln Street (from Lake to Katlian). More regular trash collection and disposal will be needed.
    - v. If recycling is to be encouraged, new receptacles will be needed along with a new service for pick-up/sorting/disposal.
  - b. Long-term Solutions: Additional permanent restrooms should be considered. Key areas lacking coverage are the western end Lincoln Street (between Lake Street and Katlian Avenue), and the eastern end of Lincoln Street (past Jeff Davis Street) including the Community Playground. Additional restroom facilities should also be considered along the Seawalk. All new permanent restroom facilities should include water stations where feasible.
2. Visitor Amenities & Experience
  - a. Sitka's wayfinding program is well developed in terms of consistent branding/visual cues and distribution throughout the community, particularly in the downtown area. Some additional wayfinding signs could be added by making more installations two-sided. Continued support for Visit Sitka is needed to keep wayfinding maps up-to-date and grow visitor awareness.
  - b. An additional, large-scale wayfinding sign should be considered at Harrigan Centennial Hall. An update to the large-scale sign at the O'Connell Bridge Dock should also be considered.
  - c. The ability to place more benches along Lincoln Street (Lake to Katlian) will be determined by the final closure plan. Where possible, downtown businesses/entities should be encouraged to provide seating on their property.
3. Opportunities to support the growth of necessary broadband capabilities will greatly improve communications and commerce systems. Where possible, CBS should work with the telecommunications industry and Tribal entities to expand Sitka's telecommunication capacity.
4. The future planning needs identified were an impact study, a traffic study, and a comprehensive permitting review/overhaul. These efforts should be prioritized in the coming years as cruise passenger projections continue to grow.

## VI. ACTION COMPILATION

| Plan Section    | Action   | Action Type            | Timeframe* | Budget Estimate            |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Traffic         | Seek ADOT approval for use of "Area J" adjacent to HCH as a taxi bank during the summer season   | Collaboration          | 2Q/3Q      | None Anticipated           |
| Traffic         | Seek ADOT approval for the use of traffic conductors at Lake/Lincoln/Harbor intersection and the Airport/Harbor Intersection or other traffic control measures to increase intersection efficiency | Collaboration          | 2Q/3Q      | None Anticipated           |
| Traffic         | Seek ADOT approval for pedestrian all-cross system   | Collaboration          | 2Q/3Q      | None Anticipated           |
| Traffic         | Adopt a street closure plan for Lincoln Street for the summer of 2022  | Policy Direction       | 3Q         | None Anticipated           |
| Traffic         | Adopt the HCH traffic and staging plan   | Policy Direction       | 3Q         | None Anticipated           |
| Traffic         | Revise permit structure at HCH to account for change in activity level and new traffic and staging plan  | Operational            | 3Q         | 10-15K                     |
| Traffic         | Management of Lincoln Street Full Closure Option daily closures/reopening & barricades   | New Service/ Equipment | 3Q         | 125K – 225K                |
| Traffic         | For Lincoln Street One-Way Option, purchase temporary median equipment   | Equipment              | 3Q         | 50K – 100K                 |
| Traffic         | Purchase ATV ambulance to serve SSCT and adventure park development at 4951 HPR  | Equipment              | 3Q         | 100K                       |
| Future Planning | Schedule retrospective review for Assembly and Planning Commission in October  | Policy Direction       | 3Q         | None Anticipated           |
| Dispersion      | Implementation of a looping shuttle system for the downtown area   | New service            | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Transportation  | Encourage and incentivize bicycling and walking as a means of commuting to decrease pressure on downtown parking   | New service            | 3Q/4Q      | 5K                         |
| Transportation  | Beautification along HPR/Swan Lake corridor and roundabout   | New service            | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating |

|                |   |                  |            |   |
|----------------|---|------------------|------------|---|
| Transportation | Purchase/install additional bike racks and/or bike shelters in the downtown area  | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | 10K                                       |
| Traffic        | Implementation of a Park and Ride system for downtown works and residents accessing downtown. Look for opportunities to pair with looping shuttle system. | New service      | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating                |
| Traffic        | Hire traffic conductors to control intersections at Lake/Lincoln/Harbor and Airport/Harbor  | New service      | 3Q/4Q      | 75-100K                                   |
| Traffic        | Hire crossing guards to assist with pedestrian crossings in the downtown area   | New service      | 3Q/4Q      |   |
| Traffic        | Increase parking enforcement  | New service      | 3Q/4Q      |   |
| Traffic        | Purchase temporary shelter/rain cover for use at HCH  | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | 70K                                       |
| Infrastructure | Purchase and/or contract temporary restroom facilities for the downtown area  | New service      | 3Q/4Q      | Will be managed by a not to exceed budget |
| Infrastructure | Incentivize use of private bathrooms for public use   | New service      | 3Q/4Q      | 30-50K                                    |
| Infrastructure | Contract services for solid waste management  | New service      | 3Q/4Q      | 20K                                       |
| Infrastructure | Add water stations to existing public restroom facilities   | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | 10K                                       |
| Infrastructure | Increase trashcans in the downtown area   | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | 15K                                       |
| Infrastructure | Add additional benches on Lincoln Street (Lake to Katlian) subject to closure plan  | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating                |
| Infrastructure | Commission/update large scale signage for HCH and O'Connell Bridge Dock   | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating                |
| Infrastructure | Add additional "Visit Sitka" branded wayfinding signs in the downtown area  | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | Future Decision/Estimating                |
| Infrastructure | Improve public Wi-Fi access at HCH and Library  | Equipment        | 3Q/4Q      | 5K  |
| Dispersion     | Development of a digital wayfinding system  | New service      | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating                |
| Dispersion     | Encourage tour operators and small-scale transportation providers to utilize alternative drop-off points where possible                                   | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating                |

|                 |   |                  |            |                            |
|-----------------|---|------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Dispersion      | Encouraging growth of the attractions and excursions market   | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Transportation  | Encourage alternative transportation modes such as public transit and carpooling  | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Transportation  | Incentives for bus fleet electrification  | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Traffic         | Seek ways to expand vendor and outfitting space at HCH  | Construction     | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Traffic         | Encourage downtown property owners to expand parking availability   | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Infrastructure  | Construct additional, permanent restroom facilities in the downtown area  | Construction     | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Infrastructure  | Construct additional parking in the downtown area   | Construction     | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Infrastructure  | Seek opportunities to expand broadband capability   | Collaboration    | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Future Planning | Commission a system-wide impact study to quantify impacts to CBS infrastructure, housing, workforce development needs, the environment, and telecommunications. | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Future Planning | Request that ADOT complete a traffic study for Sitka  | Collaboration    | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |
| Future Planning | Commission a comprehensive overhaul of CBS permitting systems and processes   | Policy Direction | ONGOING/LT | Future Decision/Estimating |

\*CBS fiscal year starts July 1 each year. Quarters are stated as part of the current fiscal year, FY22.

- FY22 2Q: October 2021 – December 2021
- FY22 3Q: January 2022 – March 2022
- FY22 4Q: April 2022 – June 2022
- Ongoing/LT: Ongoing or Long-term action, timeline undefined

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# APPENDIX DOCUMENTS

- 2022 Sitka Cruise Calendar provided by Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska on November 29, 2021
- Sidewalk Level of Service Classification from the Journal of Engineering Research and Studies
- Results of Community Survey open 12/17/21 - 1/9/22
- Planning Commission minutes for plan-related meetings

0 passengers  
 1-999 passengers  
 1000 - 2999 passengers  
 3000 - 5999 passengers  
 6000 - 8000+ passengers

## Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska Cruise Ship Calendar for 2022

FOR PORT(S) = SIT AND SHIP(S) = ALL AND VOYAGES = ALL

|  |   |  |  |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday, April 24                                   | Monday, April 25  | Tuesday, April 26  | Wednesday, April 27  | Thursday, April 28<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 09:00 '18:00  | Friday, April 29  | Saturday, April 30  |
| 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 700  | 0   | 0   |
| Sunday, May 1                                      | Monday, May 2<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00   | Tuesday, May 3<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00   | Wednesday, May 4<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00   | Thursday, May 5  | Friday, May 6<br>SIT VIKING ORION   | Saturday, May 7<br>SIT ROYAL PRINCESS 07:00 '17:00<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 09:00 '17:00                    |
| 0  | 2100  | 2100   | 2100   | 0  | 930   | 7740  |
| Sunday, May 8                                      | Monday, May 9<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS  | Tuesday, May 10  | Wednesday, May 11<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00  | Thursday, May 12<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00                      | Friday, May 13<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 08:00 '17:00  | Saturday, May 14<br>SIT NG SEA LION<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '17:00 |
| 0  | 6274  | 0  | 2100   | 6028   | 2002  | 670   |
| Sunday, May 15<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00        | Monday, May 16<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS   | Tuesday, May 17<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30  | Wednesday, May 18<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00  | Thursday, May 19<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT REGATTA 13:00 '21:00 | Friday, May 20<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 06:00 '14:00<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00                                 | Saturday, May 21  |
| 100  | 4174  | 7230   | 2100   | 2618   | 3030  | 0   |
| Sunday, May 22                                     | Monday, May 23<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS                                 | Tuesday, May 24<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '18:00  | Wednesday, May 25<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 09:30 '18:00   | Thursday, May 26<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00                            | Friday, May 27<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00   | Saturday, May 28<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 08:00 '16:00                        |
| 0  | 6870  | 2100   | 6280   | 2778   | 700   | 630   |
| Sunday, May 29<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00        | Monday, May 30<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SYLVIA EARLE 17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS  | Tuesday, May 31<br>SIT SYLVIA EARLE 18:00<br>SIT REGATTA 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE   | Wednesday, June 1<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00  | Thursday, June 2<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 10:00 '20:00                           | Friday, June 3<br>SIT NG SEA LION<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 06:30 '14:00<br>SIT CARNIVAL MIRACLE 10:00 '18:00          | Saturday, June 4  |
| 100  | 4754  | 8456   | 2100   | 3850   | 4294  | 0   |
| Sunday, June 5<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 09:00 '17:00 | Monday, June 6<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS   | Tuesday, June 7<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT REGATTA 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEAS<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 09:00 '18:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '18:00 | Wednesday, June 8<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT VIKING ORION 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 08:00 '17:00 | Thursday, June 9<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00                      | Friday, June 10<br>SIT QUEEN ELIZABETH 07:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00                              | Saturday, June 11<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00  |
| 4180   | 4770  | 5630   | 3412   | 6028   | 2792  | 100   |
| Sunday, June 12<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00       | Monday, June 13<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT CARNIVAL MIRACLE 10:00 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS                                 | Tuesday, June 14<br>SIT REGATTA 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 09:00 '16:00                                    | Wednesday, June 15<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00  | Thursday, June 16<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00  | Friday, June 17   | Saturday, June 18   |
| 100  | 6680  | 4158   | 3030   | 1848   | 0   | 0   |
| Sunday, June 19                                    | Monday, June 20<br>SIT QUEEN ELIZABETH 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS                                    | Tuesday, June 21<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '17:00  | Wednesday, June 22<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 09:30 '18:00  | Thursday, June 23<br>SIT NG SEA LION<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 10:00 '20:00       | Friday, June 24<br>SIT REGATTA 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00 | Saturday, June 25<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00  |
| 0  | 6862  | 5112   | 6280   | 3920   | 1850  | 100   |
| Sunday, June 26<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00       | Monday, June 27<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS                                      | Tuesday, June 28<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUEEN ELIZABETH 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00                               | Wednesday, June 29<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00  | Thursday, June 30<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00  | Friday, July 1<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 09:00 '18:00   | Saturday, July 2<br>SIT CRYSTAL SERENITY 09:00 '17:00   |
| 100  | 4868  | 5058   | 3030   | 1848   | 530   | 1080  |
| Sunday, July 3<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 09:00 '17:00 | Monday, July 4<br>SIT REGATTA 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS        | Tuesday, July 5<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '18:00   | Wednesday, July 6<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 09:00 '16:00  | Thursday, July 7<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00                      | Friday, July 8<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00   | Saturday, July 9<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00   |
| 4180   | 5920  | 5512   | 2412   | 6028   | 700   | 100   |
| Sunday, July 10<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00       | Monday, July 11<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 09:00 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS | Tuesday, July 12<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT REGATTA 09:30 '17:30<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30   | Wednesday, July 13<br>SIT NG SEA LION<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUEEN ELIZABETH 12:00 '19:00  | Thursday, July 14<br>SIT CRYSTAL SERENITY 07:00 '18:00<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00                       | Friday, July 15<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 06:00 '14:00   | Saturday, July 16   |
| 100  | 7088  | 8326   | 4362   | 2928   | 2100  | 0   |

|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday, July 17<br>SIT SAPPHIRE PRINCESS<br><br>2600   | Monday, July 18<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT REGATTA 09:00 '19:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 13:00 '19:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS 6002 | Tuesday, July 19<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '17:00<br>5712 | Wednesday, July 20<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 09:30 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>8757       | Thursday, July 21<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT CRYSTAL SERENITY 12:00 '18:00<br>2928                                       | Friday, July 22<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00<br>700  | Saturday, July 23<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>100        |
| Sunday, July 24<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 07:00 '13:00<br>412  | Monday, July 25<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>5486  | Tuesday, July 26<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30<br>5546  | Wednesday, July 27<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>2100   | Thursday, July 28<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>1848  | Friday, July 29<br>SIT REGATTA 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>3177   | Saturday, July 30<br>0   |
| Sunday, July 31<br>SIT SAPPHIRE PRINCESS<br>OVATION OF SEAS 09:00 '17:00<br>6780   | Monday, August 1<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>5220   | Tuesday, August 2<br>SIT NG SEALION<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '18:00<br>4652   | Wednesday, August 3<br>SIT CRYSTAL SERENITY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>3180   | Thursday, August 4<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 13:00 '21:00<br>6558 | Friday, August 5<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00<br>SIT REGATTA 09:30 '17:30<br>1712                | Saturday, August 6<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>100       |
| Sunday, August 7<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>2647 | Monday, August 8<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>5486   | Tuesday, August 9<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30<br>7826   | Wednesday, August 10<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>2100   | Thursday, August 11<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 09:00 '16:00<br>2160  | Friday, August 12<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 06:00 '14:00<br>SIT ROALD AMUNDSEN 08:00 '16:00<br>2630                                       | Saturday, August 13<br>0                                       |
| Sunday, August 14<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>930  | Monday, August 15<br>SIT REGATTA 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>5920  | Tuesday, August 16<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '17:00<br>4582  | Wednesday, August 17<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 09:30 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>8757                                       | Thursday, August 18<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>1848  | Friday, August 19<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00<br>700  | Saturday, August 20<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>100      |
| Sunday, August 21<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT SAPPHIRE PRINCESS<br>2700  | Monday, August 22<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>4626   | Tuesday, August 23<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30<br>5446  | Wednesday, August 24<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>2100   | Thursday, August 25<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 10:00 '20:00<br>3850  | Friday, August 26<br>SIT STAR BREEZE 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>2789   | Saturday, August 27<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>70      |
| Sunday, August 28<br>SIT SEALION<br>VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>OVATION OF SEAS 09:00 '17:00<br>5180                      | Monday, August 29<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>5220  | Tuesday, August 30<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 09:00 '18:00<br>4782                                | Wednesday, August 31<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT RUBY PRINCESS 10:00 '18:00<br>5182   | Thursday, September 1<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>6028                                 | Friday, September 2<br>SIT REGATTA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00<br>1400   | Saturday, September 3<br>SIT NG VENTURE 06:00 '18:00<br>100    |
| Sunday, September 4<br>SIT NG QUEST 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '20:00<br>2577                              | Monday, September 5<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>4556   | Tuesday, September 6<br>SIT NG SEA BIRD 06:00 '18:00<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT OVATION OF SEAS 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SILVER MUSE 08:30 '17:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 11:00 '20:30<br>8626                 | Wednesday, September 7<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>2100   | Thursday, September 8<br>SIT SAPPHIRE PRINCESS<br>WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>4448   | Friday, September 9<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 06:00 '14:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SUN 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>4552 | Saturday, September 10<br>0                                    |
| Sunday, September 11<br>0  | Monday, September 12<br>SIT RADIANCE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>6274  | Tuesday, September 13<br>SIT SILVER SHADOW 08:30 '18:00<br>SIT ECLIPSE 10:00 '19:00<br>3222   | Wednesday, September 14<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 09:30 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT 10:00 '18:00<br>SIT SCENIC ECLIPSE 13:00 '19:00<br>8994 | Thursday, September 15<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>1848   | Friday, September 16<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 08:00 '18:00<br>700   | Saturday, September 17<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '16:00<br>930 |
| Sunday, September 18<br>SIT SOLSTICE 09:30 '18:00<br>2850  | Monday, September 19<br>SIT SEABOURN ODYSSEY 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN BLISS<br>4624   | Tuesday, September 20<br>SIT OCEAN VICTORY 06:00 '17:00<br>SIT GRAND PRINCESS 07:00 '16:00<br>SIT SERENADE OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>4900  | Wednesday, September 21<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NIEUW AMSTERDAM<br>4200   | Thursday, September 22<br>SIT WESTERDAM 08:00 '16:00<br>1848   | Friday, September 23<br>SIT VIKING ORION 08:00 '18:00<br>SIT NORWEGIAN SPIRIT<br>3407  | Saturday, September 24<br>SIT LAUSTRAL<br>250                  |
| Sunday, September 25<br>0  | Monday, September 26<br>SIT SEVEN SEAS MARINER 07:00 '15:00<br>700   | Tuesday, September 27<br>0  | Wednesday, September 28<br>SIT EURODAM 08:00 '17:00<br>SIT NOORDAM<br>4024   | Thursday, September 29<br>SIT QUANTUM OF THE SEA 08:00 '17:00<br>1848  | Friday, September 30<br>0  | Saturday, October 1<br>SIT SILVER WIND 12:00 '18:00<br>200     |
| Sunday, October 2<br>0   | Monday, October 3<br>SIT REGATTA 08:00 '17:00<br>700   | Tuesday, October 4<br>0   | Wednesday, October 5<br>0  | Thursday, October 6<br>0   | Friday, October 7<br>0   | Saturday, October 8<br>0                                       |



**Table-1: Sidewalk Level of Service Classification**

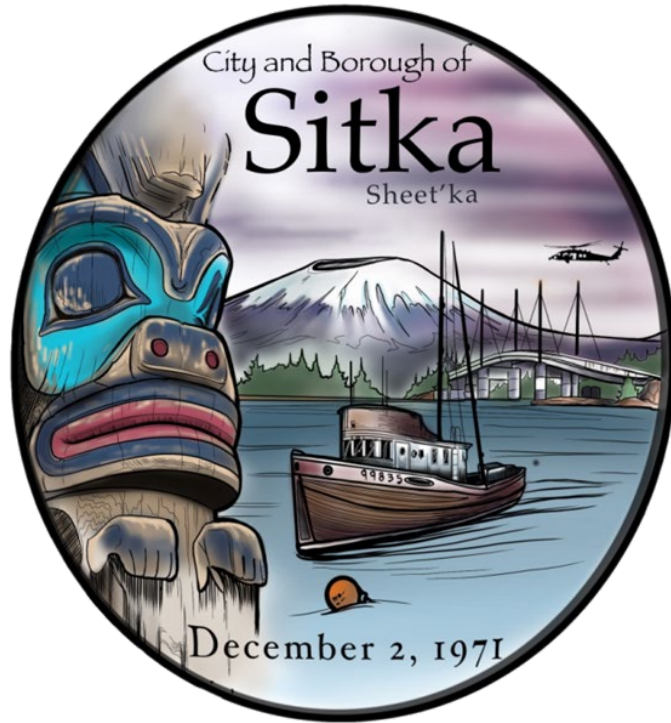
| Sidewalk Level of Service | Characteristics of Sidewalk  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>LOS A</b>              | Pedestrian Space > 60 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate = 5 p/min/ft, pedestrians move in desired paths without altering their movements in response to other pedestrians. Walking speeds are freely selected, and conflicts between pedestrians are unlikely.   |
| <b>LOS B</b>              | Pedestrian Space > 40-60 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate > 5-7 p/min/ft, there is sufficient area for pedestrians to select walking speeds freely to bypass other pedestrians, and to avoid crossing conflicts. At this level, pedestrians begin to be aware of other pedestrians, and to response to their presence when electing a walking path.   |
| <b>LOS C</b>              | Pedestrian Space > 24-40 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate > 7-10 p/min/ft, space is sufficient for normal walking speeds, and for bypassing other pedestrians in primarily unidirectional streams. Reverse-direction or crossing movements can cause minor conflicts, and speeds and flow rate are somewhat lower.  |
| <b>LOS D</b>              | Pedestrian Space > 15-24 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate > 10-15 p/min/ft, freedom to select individual walking speed and to bypass other pedestrians is restricted. Crossing or reverse-flow movements face a high probability of conflict, requiring frequent changes in speed and position. The LOS provides reasonably fluid flow, but friction and interaction between pedestrians is likely  |
| <b>LOS E</b>              | Pedestrian Space > 8-15 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate > 15-23 p/min/ft, virtually all pedestrians restrict their normal walking speed, frequently adjusting their gait. At the lower range, forward movement is possible only by shuffling. Space is not sufficient for passing slower pedestrians. Cross- or reverse-flow movements are possible only with extreme difficulties. Design volumes approach the limit of walkway capacity, with stoppages and interruptions to flow. |
| <b>LOS F</b>              | Pedestrian Space = 8 ft <sup>2</sup> /p, Flow Rate varies p/min/ft, all walking speeds are severely restricted, and forward progress is made only by shuffling. There is frequent unavoidable contact with other pedestrians. Cross-and reverse-flow movements are virtually impossible. Flow is sporadic and unstable. Space is more characteristic of queued pedestrians than of moving pedestrian streams.  |

Pedestrian LOS for sidewalks and sideways is calculated using the pedestrian unit flow rate. speed (ft/s), and the volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratio can also be derived from the Table-2.

In addition to LOS grades A to F, space (ft<sup>2</sup>/p),

**Table-2: PLOS Criteria (HCM 2000)**

| LOS | Space (ft <sup>2</sup> /ped.) | Flow Rate (Ped./min/ft) | Speed (ft/sec) | V/C Ratio  |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|
| A   | >60                           | ≤5                      | >4.25          | ≤0.21      |
| B   | >40-60                        | >5-7                    | >4.17-4.25     | >0.21-0.31 |
| C   | >24-40                        | >7-10                   | >4.00-4.17     | >0.31-0.44 |
| D   | >15-24                        | >10-15                  | >3.75-4.00     | >0.44-0.65 |
| E   | >8-15                         | >15-23                  | >2.50-3.75     | >0.65-1.00 |
| F   | ≥8                            | Variable                | ≤2.50          | Variable   |



# **Short-Term Tourism Plan Community Survey Results**

**Survey Open 12/17/21 – 1/9/22**

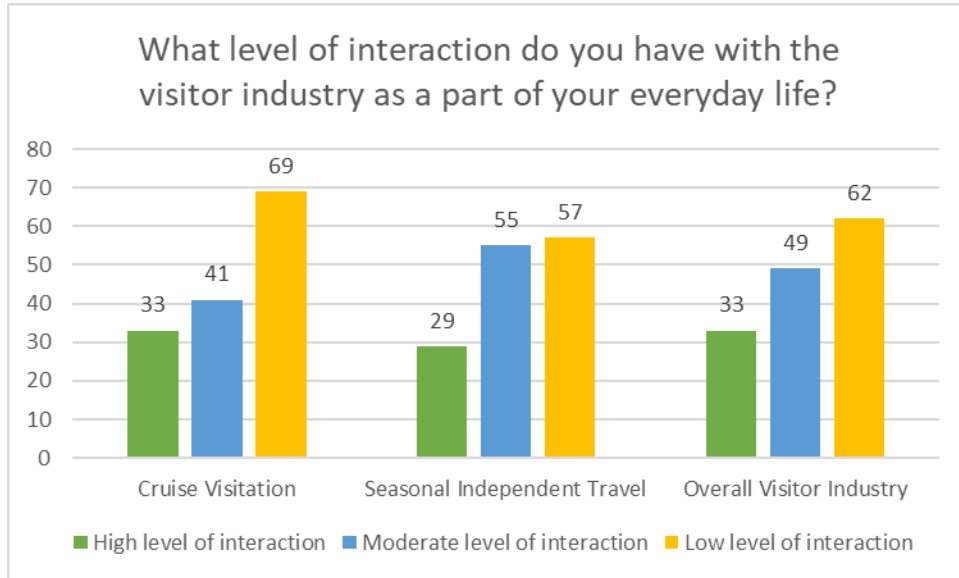
**Presented to City and Borough of Sitka Assembly & Planning Commission**

**January 13, 2022**

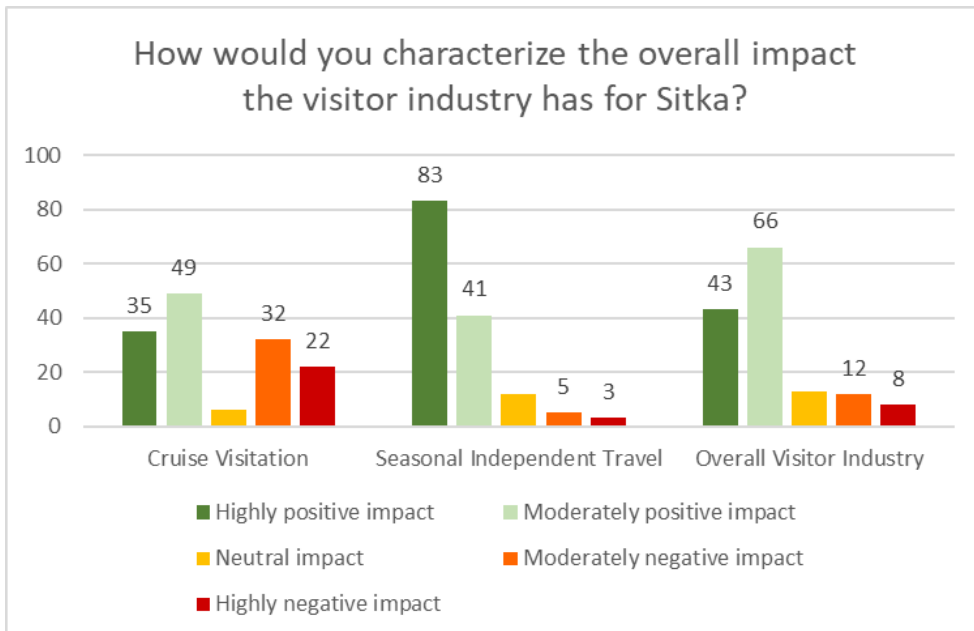
**Presented by: Planning and Community Development Department**

## Data Gathering Section

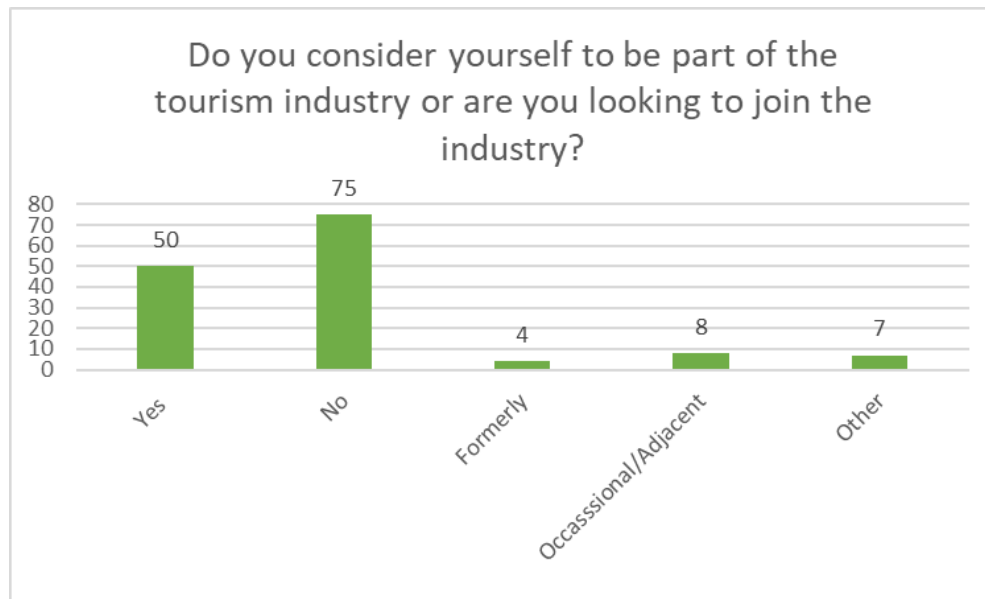
### QUESTION 1



### QUESTION 2



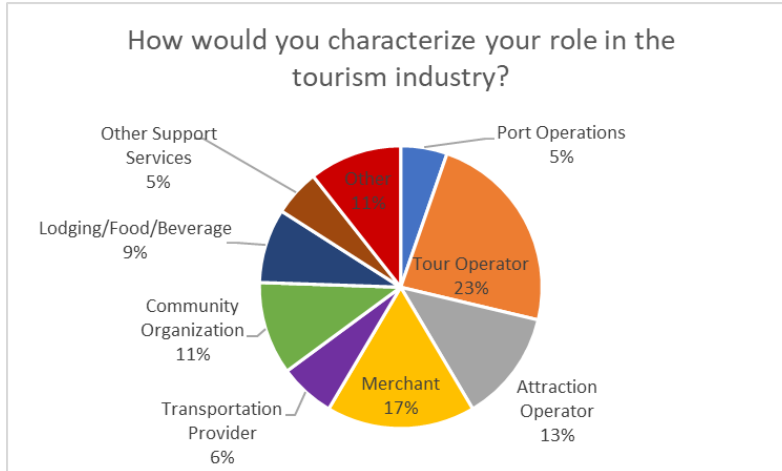
**QUESTION 3** (If answered no, participants skipped to Question 7)



Answers in "Other":

- Tourism affects every resident in sitka
  - Need to work around tourism
  - Documenting and trying to understand and help generate conversation
  - We would like to find a way to benifit from the increase in tourism so that it is not just a negative impact on our lives.
  - Possibly as it grows and develops
  - looking to limit tourism
  - Tourism affects me whether I'm in the industry, plan to join it, or want nothing to do with it.
- This question appears to be based on a faulty assumption regarding how to deal with tourism.

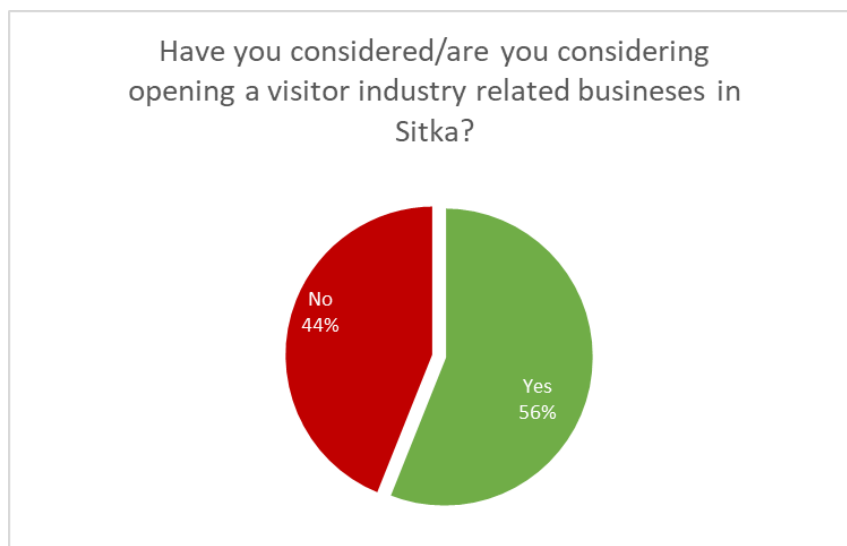
**QUESTION 4**



Answers in "Other":

- Sharing and having to adapt my life for tourism
- Local media
- Entertainment
- I was formerly a downtown merchant and tour operator
- not directly on front line
- TSA
- currently simply a citizen
- limit tourism
- How about "I live here". The assumption here is that those without a monetary/operational stake in tourism are irrelevant. A quick review shows few references to residents. I counted one. Page 12, Recommendations, #3, incentivize alternative transportation modes for residents". Whose town is this? Why is the consideration of resident's needs and desires restricted to finding another way to do what we've been doing?
- Displaced local during days with large cruise ship traffic indicates that there are too many tourists so they need to be limited

**QUESTION 5**



**QUESTION 6:** What could make opening a visitor industry related business in Sitka easier?

| Topics   | # Of Comments |
|--|---------------|
| Land/Real Estate Availability & Affordability  | 10            |
| Economic Development: Grants/Loans, Training/Edu., City Services/Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Economic Diversification | 9             |
| CBS Policy/Permitting: Clarity, Streamlining, & Enforcement  | 7             |
| Business Friendly Environment - Assembly, CBS Staff, Policy, Community   | 5             |
| Housing Availability & Affordability   | 4             |
| Lower Operating Costs: General, Insurance, Utilities   | 3             |
| Equality in Access & Representation of Tour/Attraction Operators: Cruise Marketing, Visitor Services, Policy Making              | 3             |
| Quality over Quantity Approach to Tourism  | 2             |
| Alleviation of COVID-19 Pandemic & Clarity on Restrictions   | 2             |
| Other  | 12            |

Answers in "Other":

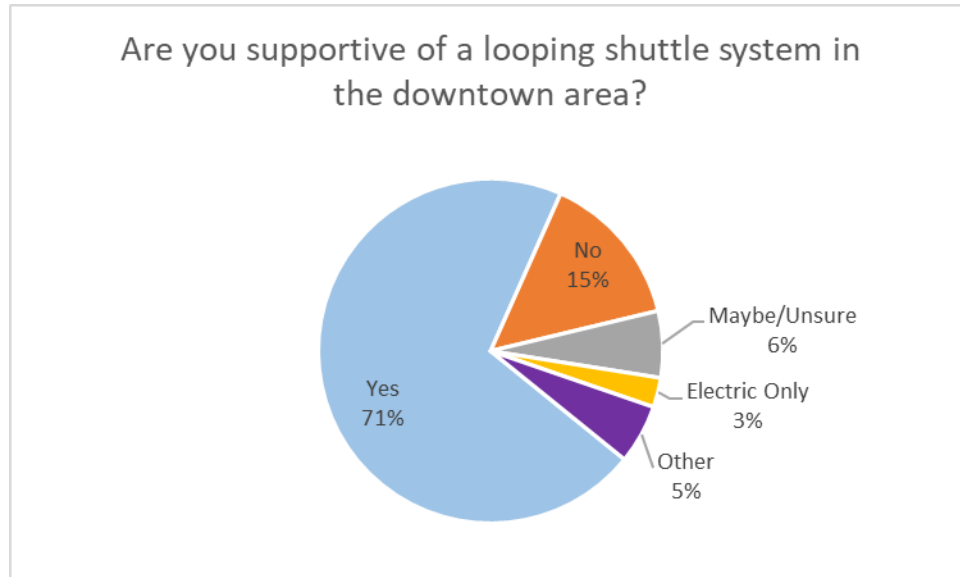
- Opening the consumer outlet off of the road system, using air/water commuters. Examples: Juneau, AK- glacier tours, Sitka, AK-Allen Marine Tours via SSCT, Air taxi and commuter airlines via Sitka Rocky Gutierrez International Airport. These are in place now. Consider using them in conjunction with cruise line companies too take advantage of good weather. This could reduce air accidents that occur every year. Pre-existing hotels, to get back onto the cruise ship in another town.
- downtown beautification, good transportation around town
- Long-term stability in visitor numbers
- There should be no free parking at Crescent Harbor. The City does not owe free parking to anyone.
- Harbor users should receive one annual vehicle parking pass for each moorage slip they rent in the harbor, and all others who leave vehicles in the parking lot for more than a few hours should have to buy an annual pass to display in the window. There should just be a couple of rows closest to downtown set aside for short term parking, for people to patronize downtown businesses. This would free up valuable space to serve local commerce, including the visitor industry.
- emphasize downtown area for visitors, increase visitors traffic and hours spent downtown
- Community dealing with the reality of the climate catastrophe we are already experiencing instead of pretending it is OK to support an industry using huge amounts of fossil fuel for "recreation". I am in a business where I have to adapt to the realities of change every day. The first step is "recognition"! Sitka leaders do not seem to recognize that planning how to arrange services for a surge in tourism traffic starting this summer is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic after it has hit the iceberg and is going down. What we should be doing is figuring out how we help local tourist rated business from charter operators to tourist dependent stores and tours adapt and survive while the transportation and cruise industry transition away from fossil

fuels. And if that isn't politically feasible then at least be planning how to plug the cruise ships and tourist tours like wildlife and fishing charters in to our power grid. I do see there is a part of the plan to provide "incentives" for bus electrification. Which is great but kind of like giving lollipops to the kids getting in the life rafts on the Titanic if they put on a life jacket. Sitka needs to recognize that tourism needs to change drastically for humanity to deal with the climate catastrophe. Bandages on scratches on your arm while you are bleeding from a severed artery is not adequate problem identification or solution.

- Encourage high end upscale business rather than low end t-shirt souvenir business from the masses
- Keep the City out of it. Let the market work out what works best for tourists, not the City. The job of the City is to maintain public safety; to facilitate, not impede, resident's access to their town in ways they are accustomed to; and encourage private enterprise - whether tour related or not - to operate in a way that provides year round, living wage jobs. It is not the City's job to be a pimp for the tourism industry. Nor is it the City's job to decide, and/or incentivize, one market sector over another.
- Allow stated tax-included pricing to reduce need for coins. Round payments to avoid change. Or some such.
- I have no experience in this area nor the wish to do so
- We don't more tourists jobs. Two suggestions- 1) Use of the words "tourism" and "visitor industry"- the questionnaire bounces around but seems to use "visitor industry" and "tourists" equally yet they are not. 2) The question should be more along the lines of "How can we create local, year around jobs that foster sustainable community supported businesses?"

## Dispersion Section

### QUESTION 7

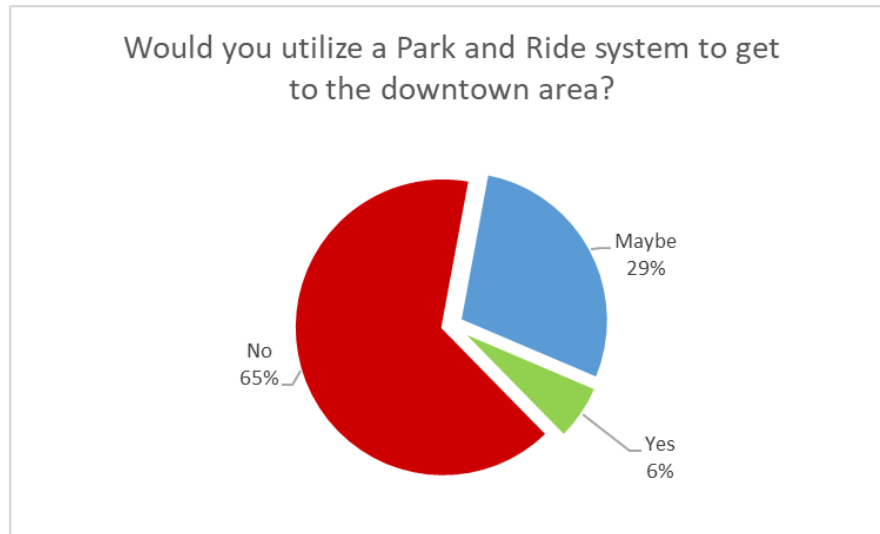


Answers in "Other":

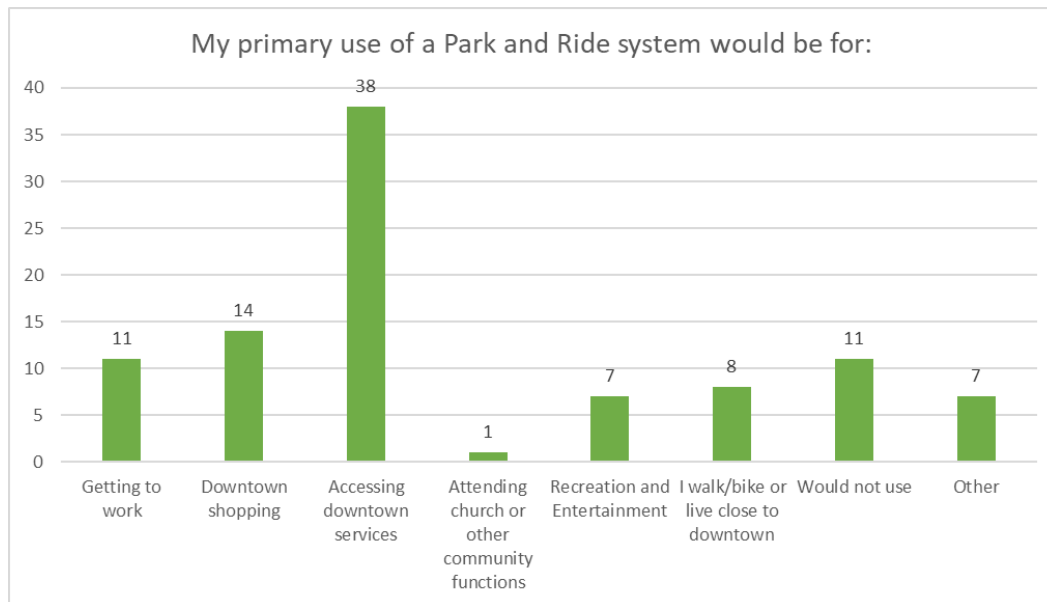
- I do not support measures that do not recognize the scope of the tourism problem
- The way to control the number of people coming from the cruise ships would be to control the number of people bused in. come up with a number of tourists the town can accommodate and stop offering shuttle buses until enough people return to their ship.
- As from high school? Use Baranof school, then walk.
- Anticipated growth is far beyond acceptable levels
- We already have one plus taxis plus the area isn't big enough to require more
- It isn't clear how this solution would improve passenger movement and congestion.
- integrate into the RIDE.
- At this point it seems like it would add to congestion but maybe I don't understand how it works in concert with the rest of the plan.



### QUESTION 8



### QUESTION 9



#### Answers in "Other"

- Providing services to non-profit organizations
- I cant see any park and ride option being viable, because of the need to carry business-related materials (inventory, paperwork, etc.) in the rain. Also, I am skeptical that local government will dedicate the necessary funding to make a park-n-ride efficient. It will be too little funding to make the shuttle run with the frequency necessary to depend on it.
- Not viable given hours it would need to run
- don't personally need it, in other places they don't get much usage
- I will avoid downtown on heavy cruise ship days.

- This question assumes Park and Ride is acceptable. This kind of question allows the authors of the survey to state the results in a manner that bolsters a predetermined, or targeted, result. Such as "Residents" (tourists aren't likely to participate in this survey) "support a Park and Ride for access to shopping, workplaces, services, recreation, and religious observances". But the data to back that conclusion up is forced. What other options are there? Well, there's "other", but as any survey taker knows, "other" is never cited in a published survey result except as "other". My answer to this question, for instance, will never show up. Bad on you!
- I would just avoid downtown at these times.
- Getting to points out from downtown such as Blue lake, whale park and Stargavin

**QUESTION 10:** Any other comments on the Dispersion section of the plan:

| Topics  | # of Comments |
|---|---------------|
| Concerned about/do not support anticipated cruise passenger numbers, unjust impacts to residents, loss of Sitka's character | 7             |
| Support for limiting/capping tourism  | 6             |
| Support for limiting/capping tourist access to downtown   | 3             |
| Support for limiting buses using downtown as a drop-off point   | 2             |
| Support for closing downtown to vehicles/making it more visitor friendly/more pedestrian friendly year-round                | 5             |
| Do not support closure of downtown  | 2             |
| Pedestrian safety concerns: General with buses, scooter rentals, more traffic on bridge, Katlian Ave., lack of crosswalks   | 4             |
| Need for traffic flow improvements downtown: intersections, crossing guards, turning into HCH                               | 2             |
| Need for enforcement of laws regarding parking, traffic, litter, smoking, health mandates                                   | 2             |
| Need for signage (physical and digital) and benefits of signage sharing cultural/historical information                     | 2             |
| Concern for downtown parking: general and harbor user/commercial fisherman  | 3             |
| Concern for environmental impacts   | 2             |
| Do not support for use of Baranof Elementary for parking, drop-off point, or bus staging                                    | 2             |
| Support for use of Baranof Elementary for parking, drop-off point, or bus staging   | 1             |
| Do not support Park & Ride system: Locals shouldn't have to use, won't be effective   | 3             |
| Suggestions to Park and Ride: Only do if electric, only do w/one-way option to allow drop-off on Lincoln, make pet friendly | 3             |
| Support Park & Ride system but wouldn't use given proximity to downtown   | 2             |
| I avoid downtown on large cruise ship days  | 2             |
| Other   | 22            |

Other:

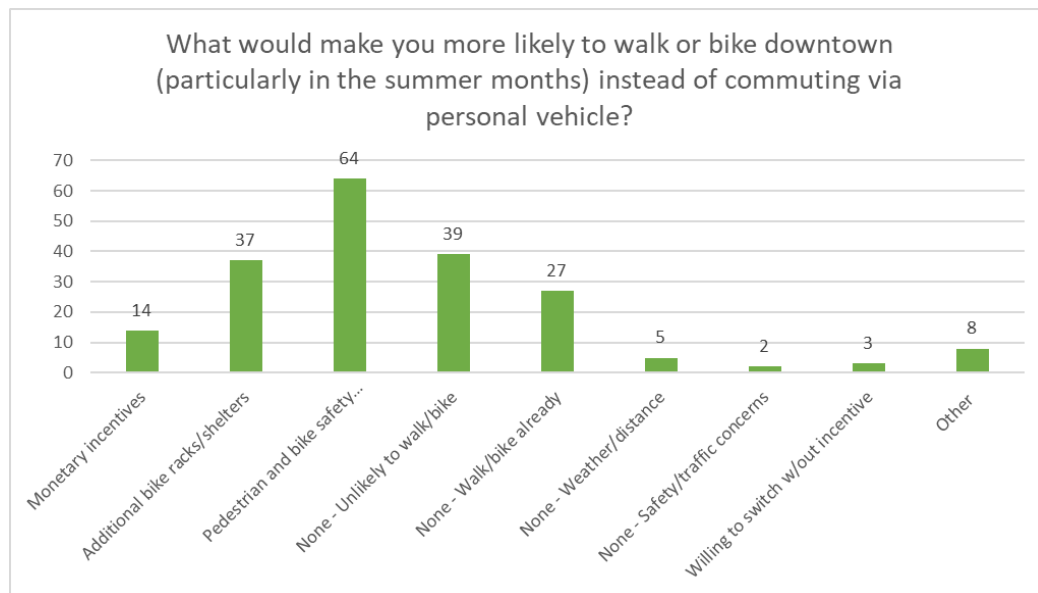
- Is the impact of COVID being considered in discussion of people being on busses?
- Please make sure all vehicles over 25 passengers use section (A) for all drop-off and pickups to keep things safe.
- you need to take the amount of time visitors will actually be in town and when they have to be back at the ship .
- Good luck
- The airport needs to be expanded in the passenger waiting area.
- I would be in favor of park and walk.
- The O'Connell Bridge Dock vehicle staging areas and one-way traffic loop should be used for the Community Ride bus service and other types of commercial passenger vehicles that provide local and visitor transportation. The lot inside the staging loop should not be parking for any City

vehicles. The Community Ride should not be taking up premium-value parking spaces in the Crescent Harbor Parking Lot.

- We need a plan to start off the season but need to be flexible if it isn't working!
- could dispersion be controlled somewhat time-wise by SSCT encouraging visitors who can to go early, or start with downtown before going on bus tour? to avoid choke in afternoon
- visitors can and probably would use Google Maps or other apps they already have rather than us doing a new one
- I live downtown and big cruise ship days are a total nuisance. Visitors must be encouraged not to linger in the literal street.
- Set up bikes to use in that area that people can just use there
- The dispersion points listed in the tourism plan were reasonable.
- Be considerate of local needs to access the pharmacy, banks, and churches. I often take my son to Harry Race for a treat on warm summer days.
- I agree with proposals to make being a pedestrian easier.
- No mention of meeting requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Electrify the public transportation system and provide plug in charging stations for bikes and cars.
- We should not concentrate all tourists into downtown, only those interested!
- Good luck. This is tricky.
- I think having different drop off points other than at HCH could be beneficial as visitors could jump on the bus going closest to the place they want to visit first. What about using the O'Connell bridge dock again? Not for lightering, but for a place for boats/tours to use?
- I love walking through town on a regular basis and usually walk from Totem Park through town, down Katlian to Eliason Boat Harbor and back. With Katlian closed to pedestrians it makes it impossible to even circumvent the downtown area without having to walk along HPR as you cannot walk along Katlian from town to Eliason Boat Harbor. Please provide an option for people walking from Eliason into town. In the summer, HPR will be full of large busses, and much traffic with exhaust fumes in pedestrians faces.
- I strongly dislike the stinky diesel buses that are currently operating to bring tourists into town from McGraw's dock!

## Transportation Section

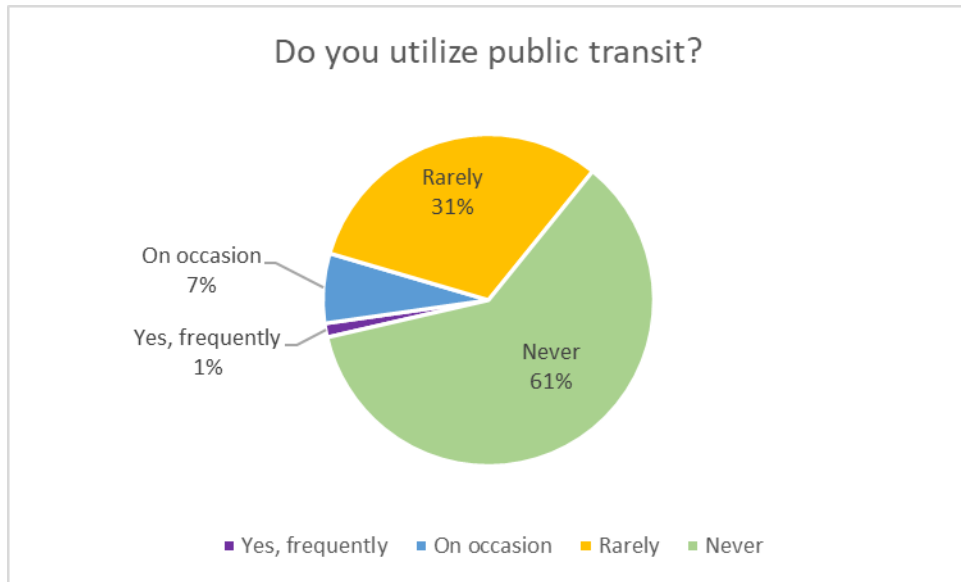
### QUESTION 11



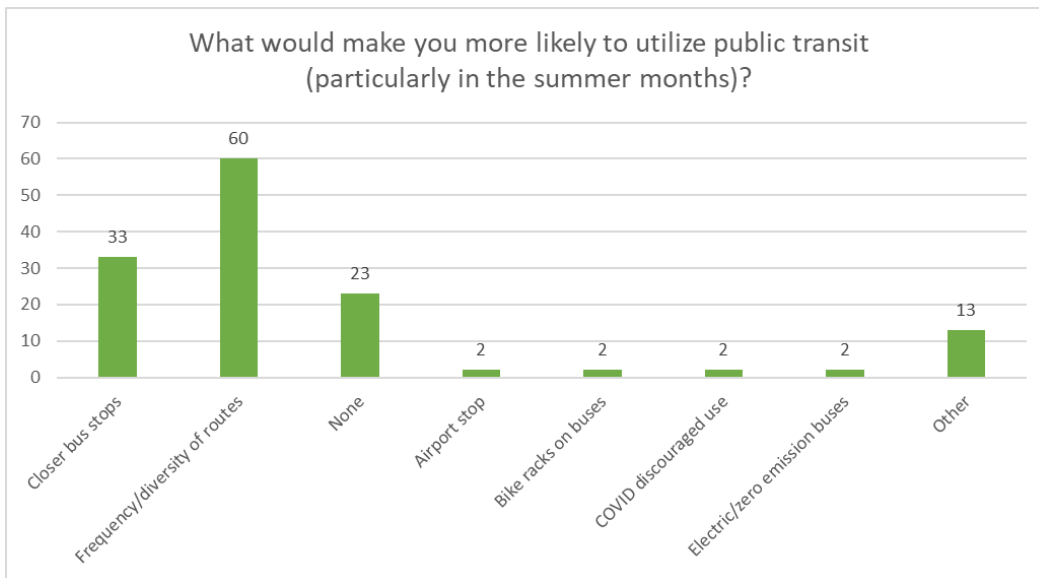
#### Answers in "Other":

- Policy for business staff and employees to park outside center
- Cars needed for harbor access/transporting equipment
- Seniors need to be able to drive & ADA access
- Why is the onus on the citizens of Sitka and the City of Sitka to sacrifice their quality of life and build infrastructure to appease the cruise industry? I'm all for having a bikeable and walkable community and having better infrastructure to support that, but I also need a vehicle to conduct my own business and go about daily life.
- If decide I want to. This is another pre-loaded question that assumes the need for people to abandon personal vehicles to facilitate tourism. Bad assumption. Loaded question. Impossible to respond in a way that will be heard or tallied.
- What would make me most likely to accept giving over our downtown to visitors of the cruise ship industry would be the those who propose the growth to be at the table with the rest of the community as we define the level of growth that is acceptable
- It's quite difficult, I must bring 2 children to school, as well as my dog with me
- I will plan my trips to down town around the cruise ship schedule.

**QUESTION 12**



**QUESTION 13**

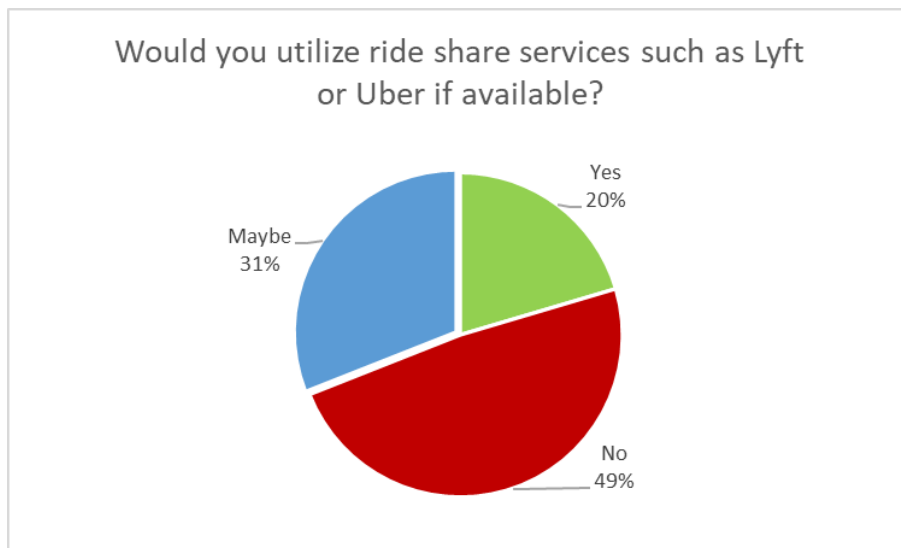


Answers in "Other":

- Sell my vehicle
- Not feasible for most downtown merchants and screws local customers that need a place to park.
- Would like to see busses to PAC before/after events there
- Expanded hours of service
- The ability to pack fishing gear from stores and locker to harbors.
- Good parking on the perimeter of where you want to keep it cleared out
- My business doesn't allow me to rely on public transit

- only if my place of work was not in downtown, where I already live
- Once again, the preferred outcome of this survey is clear, and allows for only inadequate responses that reflect other approaches to the perceived problem.
- Free shuttle
- Run bus 'Ride' line only on Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road, and use two lines for a cumulative 1/2 hour (30 minutes) cycle.
- More traffic
- I go downtown very rarely so I would just plan accordingly.
- Weekend service

**QUESTION 14**



**QUESTION 15: Any other comments on the Transportation section of the plan:**

| Topics  | # of Comments |
|---|---------------|
| Support for electric buses/vehicles   | 9             |
| Dislike of diesel shuttle buses   | 5             |
| Limitations on traffic and idling times   | 2             |
| Negative impacts to resident quality of life/unjust impacts to residents  | 5             |
| Support for capping/limiting tourism  | 2             |
| Public transit/walking/biking not feasible: Accessibility issues, cargo needs, speed of travel, distance to downtown, weather issues    | 6             |
| Improvements to public transit: Cleaner/electrification, more vans instead of buses, closer stops, more frequent                        | 2             |
| Public transit improvements would help congestion with stops at airport, ferry, trailheads  | 2             |
| Concern for lack of downtown parking: vehicle & bike  | 4             |
| Harbor concerns: Crowding out, access challenges, lack of parking   | 3             |
| Pedestrian safety improvements downtown, to Raptor Center, along HPR: crosswalks, bike paths/lanes, crossing guards, sidewalk expansion | 4             |
| Support ride share options like Lyft or Uber  | 2             |
| Do not support ride share options like Lyft or Uber   | 2             |
| Concern with current taxi operations and lack of capacity   | 2             |

Other:

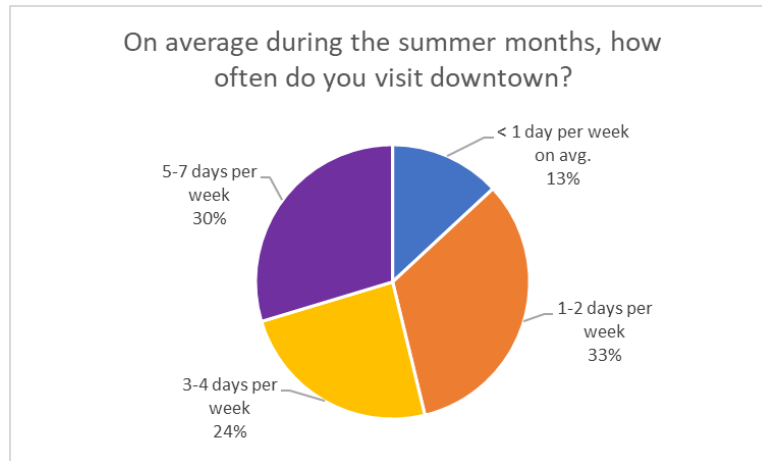
- Not sure if appropriate here- turn lanes desperately needed at downtown light. Busses are so loud, smell & skip courtesy at times. Turning left onto HPR from Cascade Creek Rd. or crossing the road when walking or biking is a challenge now so the summer challenge will be worse. Improvement to this intersection is needed. Even a simple thing like tree timing will increase visibility.
- This is not Disneyland, it is a fully functional town people want to visit. Why isn't the bridge being used as a drop off?
- It needs to be dependable, safe, clean and affordable.
- As the Cent bldg staff.
- This may not be the place for it but I think that rather than providing \$1.07 subsidy for each passenger bussed into town we should charge \$2.14 for each person (or some substantial amount) which will pay for needed infrastructure changes and the deep inconvenience that this influx of visitors will cause Sitkans. Seriously. They will pay it and we will need it. The idea of subsidized transportation is, I believe, not reasonable.
- I have to cross to Japanski Isl for work and am concerned for extreme congestion
- No tour buses or shuttle buses on Lincoln or Katlian
- I'm worried about bus traffic on Jeff Davis with the planned SMC road work and risk to pedestrians. There is already a mailbox on the corner of Jeff Davis and Etolin that is out-of-code and blocks sightlines for cars pulling out of Etolin onto Jeff Davis. More traffic and more pedestrians could lead to a bad situation. I'm also worried that the NPS is going to close down the park if they see bear tracks again in the park and pedestrians won't be able to cross through the park to get to the raptor center.
- During the summer months, the majority of customers on the Community Ride buses are visitors. The Community Ride service is presently being provided with a very valuable, free location to stage in the Crescent harbor parking lot where it can compete with commercial visitor transportation options that are very much at a competitive disadvantage. The Community Ride should not be taking up those 12 prime location parking spots, which they pay nothing for. The Community Ride should operate from the side of the road on Harbor Drive or using the large vehicle staging area at the O'Connell Bridge Dock.
- Good start. Complex. Sure we want less diesel but when is the electrification of buses going to be feasible?
- It's hard for people to think outside the box and consider something other than driving a personal vehicle and finding a place to park.
- Work with cruise ship companies to limit the number of tourists to some reasonable number at any time to make everyone's experience more enjoyable.
- I think in the near term we need to encourage all modes of transportation services, both for visitors and locals.
- Come on! If the only "plan" demands that resident transportation methods need to be altered, potentially year round, in order to allow an outside industry to take over Sitka for the summer, that plan is short-sighted at least, and inconsiderate of viewpoints that don't mesh with it. Aside from that, other agendas regarding transportation options may also be in play - and they are not stated as part of this "plan". Where is the question that asks residents (and again, tourists aren't responding

to this) "How would you prefer to access downtown Sitka?"; or, "Will lack of vehicle access to downtown increase your purchases from Amazon?".

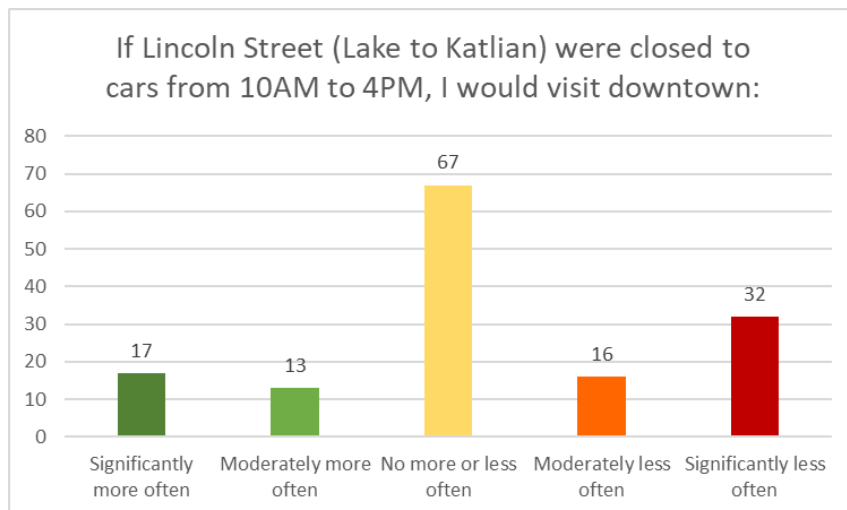
- Lincoln street should be pedestrian only during busy cruise ship days for safety of visitors and residents
- Keep downtown open one way. Year round. With more parking and more room for pedestrians by having angle in parking and wider, covered sidewalks
- Keep Lincoln St open. I've been to Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway when ships are in and they don't close streets down. Bad idea.
- Shuttle in downtown could help bring passengers back to Centennial hall for Restrooms
- I live near downtown area and walk every where now. I am a big supporter of public transportation!
- Simplify the systems and keep them stable.
- Please minimize the impact on local residents to work, worship, bank, and shop downtown.
- I'm concerned about the noise and air pollution increased bus traffic will cause for downtown residential areas on and near Lincoln Street

## Traffic Section

### QUESTION 16

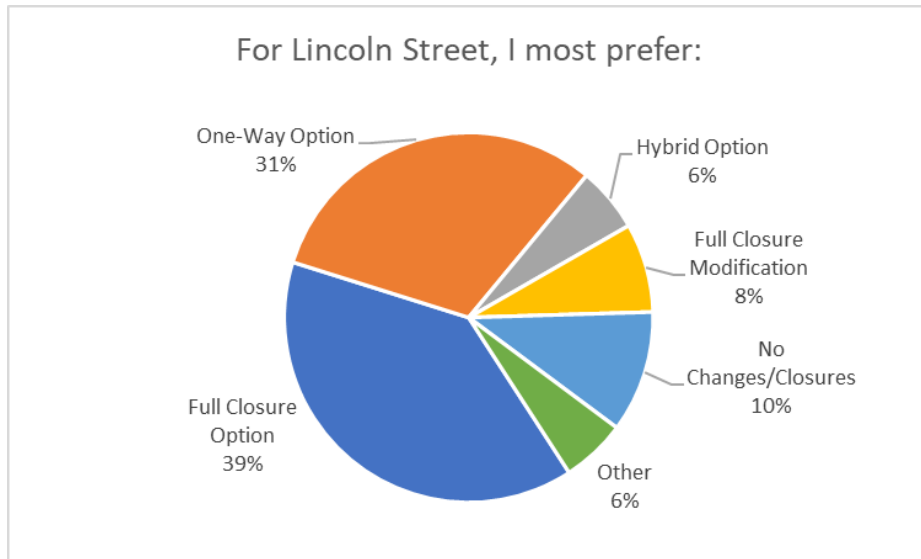


### QUESTION 17





**QUESTION 18**



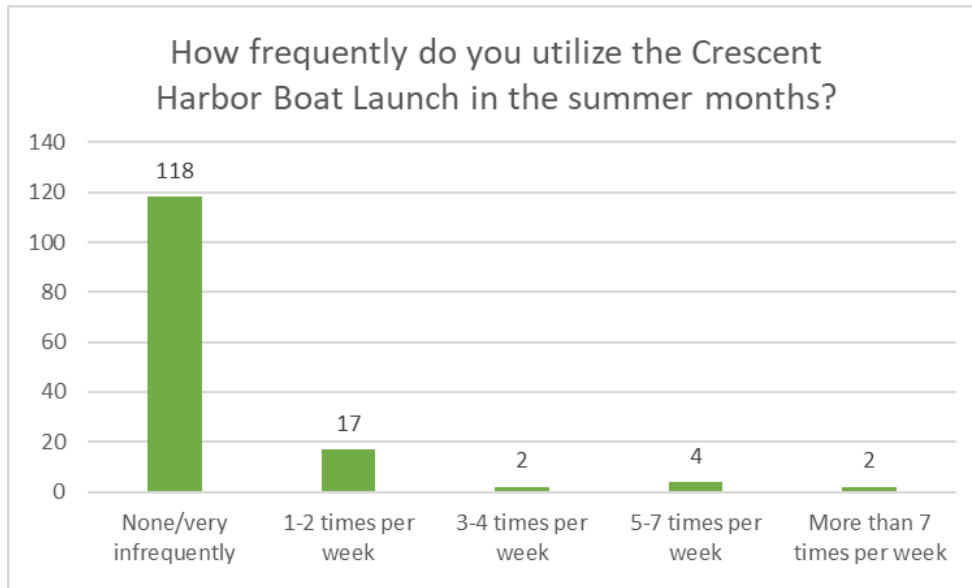
Answers in "Other"

- Limit on cruise ship passengers in town, per day
- One way from City Hall to Lake St. Maksoutoff open to right turns to Lincoln.
- Try to make sure the busiessess, banks and chruches are happy.
- I wonder if closing Lincoln Street at 10 a.m. is too late since most cruise ships arrive much earlier in the day.
- limiting the number of tourists by limiting the number of shuttle buses
- Does not affect me unless it's a weekend
- I think the church roundabout should be used exactly as that, a roundabout - to allow vehicles inbound katlian from the light, with the church turning them back around on katlian toward the light.
- Full closure with roundabput open asgateway to hospital & bridge

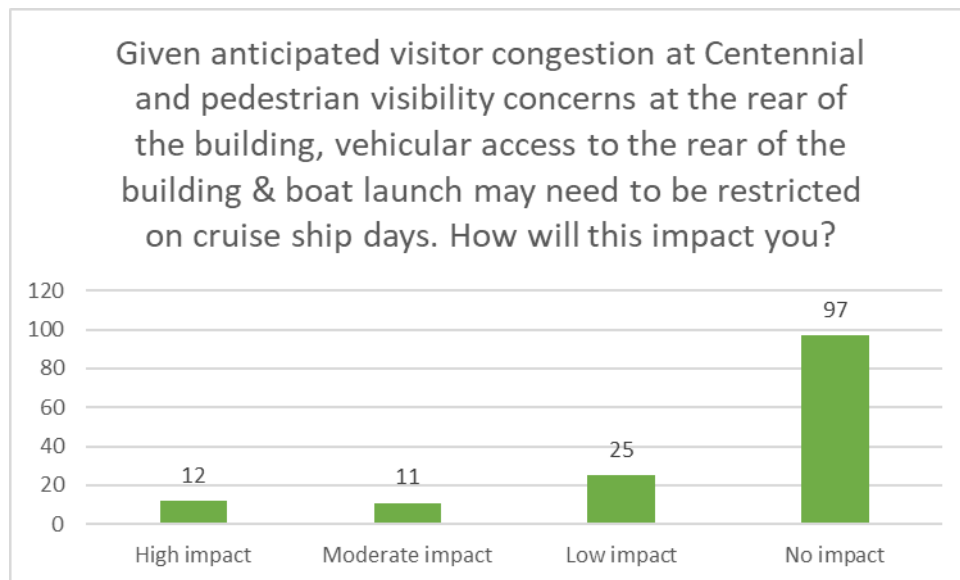
**QUESTION 19**



**QUESTION 20**



**QUESTION 21**



**QUESTION 22: Any other comments on the Traffic section of the plan:**

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b># of Comments</b> |
|--|----------------------|
| Do not support limiting access to Crescent Harbor boat launch                  | 5                    |
| Support limiting access to Crescent Harbor boat launch                         | 2                    |
| Support for an additional boat launch and/or a new kayak launch                | 3                    |
| Do not support street vending (street impedence, competing w/brick and mortar) | 2                    |
| Support bus/vehicle eletrification   | 4                    |
| Limits for buses: volume, emissions, noise level                               | 2                    |
| Accessibility concerns for downtown  | 3                    |
| Concern for lack of parking downtown, vehicles & bikes                         | 3                    |
| Preserve parking for residents and harbor users/fisherman                      | 2                    |
| Support closure of Lincoln Street to vehicles                                  | 2                    |
| Support full closure but should be full summer                                 | 1                    |
| Support full closure but accommodate bank drive thru                           | 1                    |
| Support full closure but concerned for emergency access                        | 1                    |
| Support full closure but want more benefit/cooperation from cruise industry    | 1                    |
| Support full closure if not for likely COVID impact on forecasted volumes      | 1                    |
| Support full closure but reopen at 3pm   | 1                    |
| Support one-way option for Lincoln Street                                      | 3                    |
| Do not support changes to Lincoln Street                                       | 1                    |
| Concern about delays for staff and patients getting to SEARHC                  | 2                    |
| Support addition of a left turn lane (Lake to Lincoln)                         | 2                    |
| Support use of Baranof Elementary for more parking                             | 2                    |
| Negative impacts to resident quality of life/unjust impacts to residents       | 4                    |
| Benefits of cruise industry do not outweigh the costs                          | 2                    |
| Support capping/limiting tourism   | 2                    |
| Other  | 36                   |

Other:

- There are no good options. Only desperate overtures to order.
- Good luck - whatever you do will be wrong, in the long run . . . .
- The problem is too many large cruise ship tourists. Utilize the Sitka Visitor Industry Plan to guide recommendations.
- Install cash machines at centennial and city hall areas to reduce bank congestion.
- Please just shuttle them in and drop off.
- Bicycles are a proven and functional transportation solution for a community of our size. Modern electric cargo bikes can easily shuttle children and groceries without excessive physical exertion. Safety is a primary barrier to new riders, so protected bike lanes and separated pathways are needed.

- Please make sure there is room for small independent tour operators, not just the cabs, busses, and tours with multi vehicles. Have staff out side as often as possible to monitor the nuttiness that insues, maybe a full time staff.
- Just wanted to add i had a boat at crescent for many years moved it due to no parking,limited access to ramp. Rode a bike to work for many years, became increasingly dangerous.
- If bt ramp is closed will more traffic use other bt launches such as sealing cove? Will more bridge traffic cause problems?
- It is obvious that Sitka is NOT prepared at this time (and during 2022) to adequately accommodate 400,000+ tourists. SUBSTANTIALLY more time is needed to develop and implement plans to accommodate such a number of tourist to both enhance their Sitka experience and maintain ANY semblance of normalcy for Sitka residents.
- With CV numbers increasing, I don't believe the numbers are going to happen in 2021
- Street venders (non food) directly competes with businesses that pay high. Venders would be better placed in another area. Like the green space along Crescent Harbor. Or otherwise. Like Totem Square.
- I wil avoid downtown when there's a cruise ship in town. That's not a big deal to me.
- There is mention in the short-term plan of a park and ride option. I think this is impractical and that it would involve an unnecessary parking lot development (for which I also think there is unlikely to be a good location).
- I have a boat at Crescent but because the launch there kind of sucks, we tend to launch at Sealing. I do need to be able to park at Crescent (or would be willing to pay a small fee to park at St. Gregory's or BECCC if either of these entities were ever interested in having fee parking).
- I really wish we had started this planning a couple of years ago so we could already have some solutions in place in time for this year's influx.
- Buses are a hazard to safety on Lincoln st
- Some pedestrian crosswalks are dangerous. If they were more visible, with flags available on each side of the crossing and signage, it would increase safety.
- No matter what option is chosen it will be a mess!
- HPR: could we lower the speed limit up to Peterson Street, 30 mph is too much for this busy area, which is one of the worst stretches for safety
- Not in favor of banners or murals: instead, focus on beautifying with maintenance of greenery, picking up trash, could have volunteers do weeding and clean up on Earth Day? Tree and Landscape committee ideas?
- Very concerned about traffic on Jeff Davis Street: other side streets as well, but Jeff Davis is very narrow, and there are a lot of pedestrians, including young people during Fine Arts Camp and Music Festival events, and the corner at the bottom is tough, so I am advocating for having as much as possible not to have complete blockage of SMC, and to have as little overlap as possible of construction with cruise ship season.
- Also maybe prohibit buses and large passenger vans from that stretch on big days, could do by ordinance? for safety
- My main concern with total blockage is it would be complicated, since people will be parking in there by mistake, and very concerned with anything that would impede Pioneer Home ambulance, or for that matter, ambulance access to downtown

- Probably more info needed for why an ATV ambulance for the SSCT? If it's to serve that development, could they bear the cost?
- Centennial Hall: for Area B it is listed as a pro that buses can go right on Lincoln from the parking lot, and use Jeff Davis to get to SMC, I don't think that is a Pro unless it's buses going to the Park - I feel it should not be encouraged as a way to get to SMC, Jeff Davis is not suitable for any more traffic than absolutely needed, being narrow, hard corner, and lots of pedestrians
- Please avoid increasing traffic on Seward/Marine streets as much as possible.
- Downtown is already congested because all the shops are along one street. Encourage development to be more spread out. Each store is on top of the next.
- I appreciate the time frame suggested for possible road closures and diversions.
- Deliveries need to be made.
- I think it will be awful any way you plan it and i will avoid my usual places on days when big ships are in
- There must be added staff to manage a modified downtown traffic flow. Parking needs to be addressed. Also, enforcement of the new plan must be at the top of the list.
- Make all parking on Lincoln "angle-in" like it is in front of City Hall. Make wider sidewalk on one side. Put in round about at Harbor Dr near Bevs Flowers and Mean Queen cuz once it is one way, there will need to be a way to turn L onto Harobor Dr again. It is already hard. There is plenty room there for a little round about - with only one side for pedestrians - Closest to Bev's flowers.
- Better lights
- Crossing guards are very effective
- I visit Ketchikan in the summers and have witnessed their positive impact on tourism snd safety

## Infrastructure & Future Planning Section

QUESTION 23: The plan recommends conducting a visitor industry impact study (including infrastructure housing, environment, and workforce), a traffic study, and city-wide permitting overhaul as future planning efforts. Are there other future planning topics you would like to see?

| Topics   | # Of Comments |
|--|---------------|
| Quality of Life/Socio-cultural impacts   | 8             |
| Housing Availability/Affordability, Cost of Living                                       | 8             |
| Environmental Impacts  | 8             |
| Cost/Benefit Study   | 8             |
| Cap/Limit on Visitors  | 7             |
| Impact on Health Care Delivery & Community Health  | 7             |
| City Infrastructure Impacts/Needs, Recreation Assets, Parking, & Electrification         | 7             |
| Pedestrian/Bike Safety Improvements & Accessibility                                      | 5             |
| Harbors, Working Waterfronts, and Boat Launch Impacts/Future Needs                       | 4             |
| Telecommunications   | 4             |
| Support Topic Areas as Listed  | 4             |
| Carrying Capacity/Optimal Visitor Numbers  | 3             |
| Transportation Improvements/Alternatives (electrification, rail, alt. vehicles downtown) | 3             |
| Solid Waste Management   | 2             |
| Impacts to Downtown: Seasonality, Preserving Local Ownership & Character                 | 2             |
| Enforcement for Permits  | 1             |
| Childcare  | 1             |
| Other  | 18            |

Other:

- See prior answer. Future approval of so many large cruise ships is not preordained. Sitka should market itself as a small cruise ship only destination.
- You shouldn't need any other studies. The ones outlined above should more than adequately demonstrate how ILL CONCEIVED THIS "PLAN" IS.
- Ban truck backup alarms.
- Airport
- Impose a substantial tax on bus rides into town on half the busses. See if ridership is impacted by the cost.
- There should be no free long term parking in downtown Sitka, especially at Crescent Harbor. The City does not owe free parking to anyone. Harbor users should receive one annual parking pass for each moorage space they rent in the Sitka harbors, and all others wishing to park long term should have to purchase and display an annual pass purchased from the City.
- This needs to happen ASAP!
- Studies produce the outcome intended by the funder of the study. This survey is a good example. But yes. I'd like to see a study on the effects on the quality of life of Sitka's residents, of all ages, if tourism becomes the dominant force in our economy. How many kids will there be when the living wage jobs that allow a young couple to raise a family here are replaced by seasonal ones? How many young people are likely to stay here and raise families of their own

when their employment options last 3 months a year? What will downtown look like, and will anyone want to go there in the winter? What's the plan for when the only good paying jobs are government ones? Sample questions: "What do you think of living in a place where everyone works for the City?"; "What should that City do in that situation when its income is only 6% of its payroll?"; "Should there be a higher tax rate for people who don't work for the City to make up the difference?"; "If there is, are you likely to a)continue to live here, b)move away, c)apply for a job with the City." You get the idea.

- How to learn from this experience so that, in the future, our town can make forward looking decisions proactively.
- Buy the Cathedral Arms - tear it down to 3 floors and make it parking. It's not great housing. People constantly complain that the heat does not work, the elevator is broken, etc. It is a disgrace to this town!
- Fully support future pro-active planning
- Redistricting and rezoning.
- beautification and "upping" Sitka's charm
- Turning the Katlian road into a trail only.
- Plans/opportunities for expanding ecotourism options
- I really think Uber and Lyft would help our community, especially in the summer.
- Classes for customer service would be helpful for seasonal and young people just entering the workforce. It could cover basic history and how to help guide folks to the activities that would interest them.
- Hotel room space for independent travelers

**QUESTION 24:** Any other comments on the Infrastructure and Future Planning section of the plan:

| Topics   | # of Comments |
|--|---------------|
| Impact to Community  |               |
| Concern for/do not support anticipated cruise passenger numbers                                    | 4             |
| Questions/concerns about the cost of plan recommendations  | 3             |
| Preserve character and authenticity of Sitka   | 2             |
| Cruise activity ought to lower tax burden/cost of living for residents                             | 3             |
| Infrastructure/Community Asset Impacts   |               |
| Concerns about telecommunications  | 6             |
| Concern for waste management: solid waste, recycling, wastewater                                   | 5             |
| Concern for housing impacts: Seasonal workers, residents, USCG, STRs                               | 3             |
| Concerns for environmental impacts/pollution   | 3             |
| Concern for impacts on trails/other recreation assets  | 3             |
| Concern for impacts on streets, Library, HCH, Harbors  | 3             |
| Concerns for safety: Traffic, COVID/Public Health  | 2             |
| Plan Comments  |               |
| Appreciation of plan/work on plan  | 6             |
| Plan is too focused on accommodating cruise industry/too much cruise industry control of community | 3             |
| Downtown Specific  |               |
| Do not support use of temporary restrooms/more permanent restrooms are needed                      | 6             |
| Support use of temporary restrooms/see need for more restrooms                                     | 4             |
| Support pedestrian/bike safety improvements  | 6             |
| Additional parking downtown needed, ADA accessible spaces need to be preserved                     | 4             |
| Use of bridge dock for additional drop off   | 2             |
| Support additional wayfinding signage/like current Visit Sitka wayfinding design                   | 2             |
| Support designated street food vending location(s)   | 2             |
| Support adding parking along the green strip (Crescent Harbor/Seawalk)                             | 1             |
| Do not support adding parking along the green strip/Want green strip preserved                     | 1             |
| Other  | 19            |

Oher:

- While I see the recommendations for more vendors and excursions, great care needs to be taken that these are local and high quality, not simply imported operators who work in AK in the summer and elsewhere in the winter. This increases housing pressure for locals, and creates a subculture of seasonal workers who have only a marginal/economic link to the community.....witness Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan in the summer. Sitka has this to a lesser extent, but we open the town to a greater number of non-locals as seasonal tourism workers with this growth. Then, the visitor ends up interacting more with non-Sitkans who tell their often skewed stories. I have done Road Scholar program work in AK and have witnessed this many times in other towns with more cruise ships. Build in some criteria and vet the vendors. Side item.....keep enough Crescent Harbor parking for island dwellers and the fishing fleet!
- I believe the use of boat taxis would benefit tourists. I don't agree with the short dismissal the survey gave to boat traffic and I would like to see that researched in more detail.



- Place Portable toilets out of view of main traffic routes. Increase repair and cleaning of Existing public toilets.
- The roads ( town Plan) was laid out in the 1800's and did not account for thousands of visitors , I have concerns for the safety and well being of tourists and townspeople and the exponential possibility of some form of emergency as you are directing thousand of beings to a very small footprint. As the Baranof School was mentioned by the city and Mr McGraw as a possible place to off lay passengers I am against that as although its zoning is CBD it is mixed use , mostly residential with small children. Busses in this neighborhood will bring noise, diesel exhaust, and potential danger to an area that is utilized by formal child care programs. Also the need to provide accessible rest rooms and the associated cost of cleaning, hook ups, water supply and staff to direct traffic and cleaning and at present cleaning to a Covid standard has yet to be addressed. This area is also only accessed by a narrow one way street and getting to Sawmill Creek and HPR is difficult and dangerous because of the curvature of the road where someone pulling out from Oja street has to look towards First Bank for a vehicle reflection in there window and look right towards the turn around before they can pulling out, At the intersection of Monastery Street and Sawmill Creek the Baranof School is built to the sidewalk and on your left the Elks has a large tree and bank of US Postal Service impeding visibility onto SMC blvd. I think placement of an accessible bank of rest rooms could be placed behind the Centennial building perhaps cantilevered out to save space and possibly decorated as saloons or something that is recognizable, can get national attention for free marketing for Sitka. Also consideration should be directed to bear proof underground placement of trash containers that could hold a larger volume of material, you could discuss this with the hauler to see what is possible. You may want to consider utilizing youth to dress and push wheeled weather protected cart to provide information and answer visitors questions. Dressing these youth and paying them also has the ability to bring attention to our town.
- I appreciate thinking about waste management, and I wonder whether there might be ways to encourage guests not to throw trash away here since we have to pay to ship it to Washington. In other island communities (e.g., many places in Japan), it is culturally expected to carry your garage back home with you. In wilderness settings, we learn to "leave no trace" or "pack it in, pack it out." Might it be possible to make garbage the responsibility of the visitor rather than having us saddled with it?
- Sitka seems to be fixing issues from decisions made years prior. Studies and decisions should weigh current issues, but heavily weigh how this will impact us 10, 30, 50 years from now.
- Airport
- Carrying capacity needs to be studied both in town and on our trails. Marty Marshall did a Carrying Capacity study for the USFS, probably in the late 90s. I think it was for Unit 4. It was an interesting process and was used for allocating permits. Do I dare assume that all past visitor studies have been reviewed? I have copies of all of them and though they are old, they may have useful insight.
- I like the left turn lane onto Lincoln Street.
- The city's last non-motorized transportation plan was completed in 2002. We are long overdue for a new one.
- \$750k - \$1million per bus sounds too expensive for electrification - can you double check that? Or maybe I misunderstood that section.

- Be sure to utilize other committee plans and studies
- There is a giant section missing which I have spoken to frequently, both publicly and privately - revitalization of downtown Sitka with evening entertainment & dining and multiple uses of existing buildings. This is a key need to attract independent visitors as well as our residents to downtown. Nobody will want to ride a shuttle downtown if there is nothing to go to. Redeveloping and revitalizing downtown will take more than a tourism plan. Revitalization of the downtown core needs to become a #1 planning and community development initiative and priority. Closing Lincoln Street down is a step in the right direction, but if the sidewalks rollup at 5pm, the larger problem is not addressed. I don't mean this harshly, but the plan seems more like accomplishment of a short-term mission than a strategic change in direction. Sort of spending a lot of time checking off the box and doing what the Assembly asked, with great fanfare but no real strategic progress. Much of what the plan does is simply document what we already know - parking sucks, there are no public restrooms, restaurants are too few, the internet stinks, etc. The plan solves a few problems and has some flashes of inspiration, but does not fundamentally change the future direction of Sitka and does not address the joined-at-the-hip relationship of the downtown core and the visitor industry.
- Perhaps a focus on energy strain- especially if we are looking to electrify public transit and possibly tour buses then grid modernization is a must. Planning for optimally located charging stations would be a part of that as well.
- Allow lyft or uber in our community. Our cabs are not reliable for current needs as it is. Provide funding to shunt minor medical care away from the hospital.
- I hope that the future planning and impact studies don't get lost in the fray of managing the number of visitors Sitka will have in the near future.
- I think Sitka is extremely lucky to have a diversity economy and the cruise Industry is an important part of it!
- I think its a wait and we'll see. Try this survey again after summer 2022.
- Electric buses would be great!

**QUESTION 25:** Any other comments on the plan overall:

| Topics  | # of Comments |
|---|---------------|
| Plan Impressions  |               |
| Appreciation of plan/work on plan   | 25            |
| Appreciation of plan/work on plan, but don't support the growth/needs to be considered by community | 6             |
| Do not support plan/too accommodating of visitors at expense of residents                           | 4             |
| Like survey/would like to see surveys about visitor industry continue                               | 4             |
| Visitor Industry Overall  |               |
| Negative impacts on residents and quality of life/loss of Sitka's character and uniqueness          | 19            |
| Do not support anticipated tourism numbers/needs to be considered by community                      | 8             |
| Support limiting/capping tourism  | 8             |
| Would like visitor industry to cover more costs/adapt to community needs                            | 5             |
| Uncertainty of forecasted visitor numbers given COVID/caution on spending                           | 4             |
| Would like visitor industry to provide more community benefit/reduce cost of living                 | 2             |
| Importance of visitor industry to economy, importance of tour operators                             | 2             |
| Community Wide Impacts/Concerns   |               |
| Concern about impact/improvements needed for CBS & community infrastructure, services, and assets   | 12            |
| Concern about impacts on environment/climate  | 4             |
| Support electrification of buses and cruise shore power   | 3             |
| Dislike of current diesel buses   | 2             |
| Safety concerns: Traffic, Pedestrian/Bikes, COVID/Public Health                                     | 5             |
| Concern about reliance on seasonal industry, workforce impacts, year-round business impact          | 3             |
| Downtown  |               |
| Support shutting down Lincoln Street  | 2             |
| Do not support shutting down Lincoln Street/will affect locals shopping locally                     | 2             |
| Support for more local, year-round businesses/keeping downtown authentic                            | 3             |
| More parking needed/accessibility for ADA needs and seniors   | 1             |
| Other   | 21            |

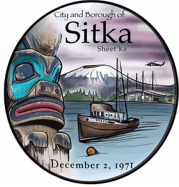
Other:

- We can't please everyone but a decision needs to be made
- Would impact downtown business activity
- Do your best, remember the small gals and guys and not just the big mouths or folks with lots of money. Thank you for your work.
- Sitka has outgrown itself. Look into the long-term, and that includes a real infrastructure economy. Most people are subsidized significantly-This has been the case for as long as I have been a resident of Sitka, Alaska. I am not accepting the current system as legal nor is it acceptable.
- Bridge dock tendering
- Please make sure all vehicles over 25 passengers use section (A) to keep things safe.

- I'll boycott downtown Sitka on cruise ship days.
- The intersection at Cascade Creek Road and Sea Mart definitely needs attention. Vehicles are speeding up coming out of town, and vehicles are still at speed and haven't slowed down coming into town. Turning left off of Cascade Creek onto HPR to go into town is difficult because it is hard to see oncoming traffic until it is close. Traffic coming out of Sea Mart turning right into town often doesn't stop, ignoring the sign that says to give right of way to Cascade Creek traffic. Add bicycles, runners, walkers, and more buses makes the intersection even less safe. Additionally, some bikers, runners, and walkers have a habit of crossing Cascade Creek just uphill from the intersection.
- These surveys are a waste of time. If the planning commission doesn't like answers they disregard the ideas, like the Short Term Rental Survey. Not very credible.
- The City needs to support staff efforts when enforcement actions are taken. There needs to be recourse if vendors are conducting business on public property and representing the city negatively (consistent verified complaints etc).
- the plan does not address the traffic , air quality and noise that SEARHC will be bringing to Sitka with their acquisition of multiple properties , one in town and several in our community, one is the Totem Square site which for the past few years has been dormant but does occupy a major portion of the downtown. Thank You
- The addition of sawmill creek industrial park facilities as additional cruise-ship dock would best best way to relieve traffic congestion and traffic bottlenecks to downtown area. This should be strongly considered in future planning!
- As I mentioned above, I enjoy cruising. What I do not enjoy is getting on a shuttle bus to get to the tour bus. I like it when the tour buses leave from the cruise terminal. The cruise terminal needs to be responsible for finding the space and building the additional staging areas for bus tours to leave from the terminal. This would avoid some of the problems at HCH. The buses could give visitors the option to be dropped off downtown or back at the ship. I realize this may increase traffic on HPR but may ease congestion at HCB. As a visitor I would appreciate that. As a condition of Sitka continuing to fund the shuttle buses there should be a sign and an announcement on the buses that the service is provided by a generous grant from the CBS. Other communities where I have cruised have done this and it makes passengers feel a little more warmly and welcome in the town, right off the bat. They normally assume that the shuttle is paid as part of their cruise fare and provided by the cruise line. The lines do not discourage this notion. We need to let them know that CBS is paying for their ride. It will give them a good feeling about Sitka before they ever get to town.
- Airport. The passenger waiting area is too small. We often have to pause screening in the summer because it's full.
- I congratulate all the participants in a great and detailed plan within the scope of "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic". But, Let's recognize we need to be organizing this community to prepare for how to survive the sinking of the Titanic (our present tourism industry) and the weather our life raft (Sitka) will experience.
- AND DON'T FORGET THE LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN. The increase of sales tax in the summer seems to always be attributed to tourism. People seem to forget that Fishermen pay summer taxes on all gear, fuel, groceries and summer maintenance work etc. and most live in Sitka all year round. Plus there's the annual raw fish tax that Sitka receives from fishermen via

the state. AND without commercial fishermen Sitka could not support 5 harbors. Don't sacrifice your local year round historic fishing industry for overtourism. These megaships may not survive. The new reality is pandemics and the future may be smaller crowds and boats. Look to Europe and learn why and how small historic city centres are turning away from mass tourism and catering to the independent tourist. Less may be more. Please do your research, look before you leap. Don't burden Sitkans next generation with another Dam project.

- Current dining and food/beverage vending options downtown and in other tourist venues are woefully inadequate for the anticipated number of visitors. This needs to be addressed or visitors are not going to have a good experience, and residents who depend on current dining options are not going to be happy, either. City and Visit Sitka should do some additional research to determine how many lunches current and anticipated venues and vendors are able to serve on a daily basis, and the gap between available food service and likely demand, to develop additional options, including but not limited to engaging cruise lines in solving this problem.
- Please continue to prioritize parking in the Crescent Harbor parking lot for harbor use. Long term parking needs to remain available for fishing vessel owners and crew who leave town for multiple days at a time.
- grateful that at least some of you all are trying to "plan" - er,, ah . . . Guess?
- Lincoln St., Katlian St., and Lake St., like it or not, are the arteries providing access to many of Sitka's year round businesses. If road access is restricted even more than it is already, downtown fish processing plants can't move fish, fuel companies can't service their downtown customers, freight haulers can't access some of their biggest customers; and there are many more businesses whose ability to operate will be seriously affected. These businesses provide year round jobs, at living wages. Most tourism jobs don't do that. You could argue that tourists will pay lots of sales tax, and that will make the City rich; but what good is that? A City funded by tourist money is likely, as all government is prone to do, to seek even more; and to spend it on enhancing the tourist experience. No government ever has enough. So, what happens to Sitka then?
- I hope the community give helpful responses and not fearful and negative reactions re: thinking this is the end of Sitka. Good to give us a voice and try to keep locals involved and also push/work with the Cruise Lines, Alaska Coach and Halibut Point Marine and other major operators to help look out for the community's needs/concerns.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, May 5, 2021

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley

Absent: None

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Jay Sweeney, Hugh Bevan, Keren Zhu, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

**Attachments:** [Background Information Review\\_Staff Memo](#)  
[Sitka Gateway Plan](#)  
[Sign Transit Services OSD to HCH 2020](#)  
[CPET Information](#)  
[Cruise Calendar 2022](#)

Ainslie detailed the discussion for the evening regarding the tourism plan and the decisions requested from the Commission, categorized into data needs, identification of a title for the plan, a list of collaborators and public outreach, and a standing meeting time for the meeting. Ainslie described the preliminary work schedule for the year. Spivey suggested that waste be considered as part of direct-use infrastructure. Riley asked if the coach company would be included in the transportation discussion and suggested that public outreach might be necessary for businesses and people potentially impacted by bus route redirection, and requested for delivery companies to be included in the traffic discussions. Ainslie explained that, as the coach services was annually contracted, participation in discussions would likely come after the 2022 contract was awarded.

The floor was opened for public comment. Hugh Bevan suggested that a letter be written to Department of Transportation (DOT), copied to state senators and the city's D.C. lobbyist as the DOT may have resources and traffic engineering expertise that

would benefit the plan. Jay Sweeney spoke on behalf of the Island Artists Gallery, requesting to be included as Downtown Business collaborators.

The Commission moved to adopt the title Short-Term Tourism Plan for the planning effort.

The Commission discussed schedule availability and agreed to hold special meetings at 6:30pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month to discuss the tourism plan followed by their regular meeting which would be moved to 7:30pm. Ainslie stated that as this would require a change to the Commission's regular meeting time, the change should be discussed at the following meeting to allow for the change to be advertised and opportunity for public comment.

Spivey directed staff to identify appropriate meeting dates for the excursion/attraction forum and the downtown business forum.

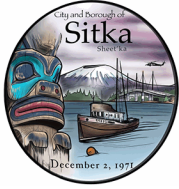
Riley requested that staff provide data on the number of daily excursions and any expected increase to number of excursions as a result of increased cruise passengers. Riley also requested that staff find estimates for the number of additional support staff as a result of increased excursions. Riley suggested that Icy Strait in Hoonah might be an appropriate reference to find impacts from increased tourism. The Commission requested that staff find data on the impact charter fleets might have on local fish stock, as well as the taxation of charter companies and what those taxes fund.

Sweeney, former finance director for the city, explained that fish box tax was previously split between the general fund and the harbor fund but now all tax revenue from fish tax boxes were transferred to the harbor fund. Riley asked staff to provide a list of all applicable taxes on charters.

**M-Windsor/S-Riley moved to adopt the title "Short-Term Tourism Plan" for the tourism planning effort. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.**

## V. ADJOURNMENT

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 6:51pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, May 19, 2021

7:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor (arrived 7:01PM), Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley  
Absent: Stacy Mudry (Excused)  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Alexander Allison, Sarah Allison, Jay Sweeney, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)  
**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.**

#### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

#### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

A [PM 21-08](#) Approve the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Attachments:** [8-May 5 2021 DRAFT](#)

**M-Riley/S-Alderson moved to approved the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed 3-0 by voice vote.**

B [PM 21-09](#) Approve the May 5, 2021 special meeting minutes.

**Attachments:** [9-May 5 2021 Special Meeting DRAFT](#)

**M-Riley/S-Alderson moved to approved the May 5, 2021 special meeting minutes. Motion passed 3-0 by voice vote.**

#### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

#### V. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ainslie reminded the Commission of the tourism planning attractions and excursions forum at 7pm on May 20th. Ainslie told the Commission that the short-term rental community survey had been published and received over 240 responses so far and would remain open until end of day on May 26th. Ainslie informed the Commission that should would be out of office from May 27th to the 31st and city offices would be closed May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

#### VI. REPORTS



portion of ATS 15. The application was filed by Alexander and Sarah Allison. The owner of record was Alexander Allison. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

**M-Alderson/S-Windsor moved to approve and adopt the required findings conditional use permits as listed in the staff report. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

**D**      [MISC 21-11](#)

Discussion/Direction to change the regular meeting time from 7:00 pm on the first and third Wednesday each month to 7:30 pm on the first and third Wednesday each month.

**Attachments:**      [MISC 21-11 Meeting Time Staff Memo](#)

The Commission unanimously agreed to the meeting time change. Windsor asked if the same process would be required to revert the time back to regular hours. Ainslie confirmed that public notice and a vote would be necessary.

**M-Windsor/S-Riley moved to change the regular meeting time from 7:00pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month to 7:30pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

**E**      [MISC 21-09](#)

Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

**Attachments:**      [Background Information Review Staff Memo](#)  
[Sitka Gateway Plan](#)  
[Sign Transit Services OSD to HCH 2020](#)  
[CPET Information](#)  
[Cruise Calendar 2022](#)

Ainslie introduced the item as an opportunity for the Commission to prepare the format of the attractions and excursions forum on May 20th as well as the questions that would be helpful in initiating conversation. Ainslie noted that the downtown business forum was schedule for Thursday June 3rd.

Alderson noted that including possibilities for scaled responses according to the number of passengers in a day would be good to include. Riley noted that impact cruise passengers have on independent travelers may be an important consideration.

Ainslie stated that the June 2nd hour long special meeting would be an opportunity for increased public engagement.

The Commission identified suggested drop-off points, areas to avoid, general concerns, suggested infrastructural improvements, and suggested process improvements as starting questions for the attractions and excursions forum.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Jay Sweeney of the Island Artists Gallery expressed a need for increased public outreach, and suggested a letter to the editor may provide increased visibility as current public notice is often buried in the center of the newspaper. Sweeney also voiced his concern that tourists be directed to the city to increase opportunities for downtown businesses.

Alderson asked if it would be appropriate for Commissioners to write letters to the editor regarding the tourism planning effort. Ainslie stated that this would be

appropriate.

**No action taken.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no objection, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, June 2, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley

Absent: Thor Christianson (excused)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Hugh Bevan, Pat Kehoe, Chuck Trierschild, Jill Scheidt, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-12](#) Public comment/feedback on cruise passenger dispersal.**

The Commission opened the floor for public comment on cruise passenger dispersal. Hugh Bevan commented that cruise passengers could be lightered to town from the cruise ship dock using CPET funds. Spivey asked if using the O'Connell lightering dock as a drop-off location would create congestion concerns. Bevan replied that it would reduce road traffic. Ainslie read written comment from Bruce White, who expressed concern about the noise and air pollution impacts that tour buses have on residences along their routes and requested a limitation placed on tour bus operation.

**No action taken.**

#### **B [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

**Attachments:** [Background Information Review Staff Memo](#)

[Sitka Gateway Plan](#)

[Sign Transit Services OSD to HCH 2020](#)

[CPET Information](#)

[Cruise Calendar 2022](#)

Ainslie reported to the Commission responses to questions asked in an earlier meeting. Ainslie explained that the primary economic benefit for the city from cruise

tourism is the cruise passenger excise tax (CPET), sales tax, and the fish box tax which goes to the Harbor Department.

Ainslie informed the Commission that Royal Caribbean Lines provided estimates of their overall operations in Alaska, wherein 30% of passengers participate in excursions and 1,600 charter fishing tours were sold on-vessel across all 8 Alaska ports during a 20 week period in 2019. Ainslie noted that this did not account for shore-side charter fishing sales and so would be difficult to quantify an accurate estimate.

Ainslie discussed the upcoming tourism planning meetings, including downtown business forum on June 3rd and the June 16th special meeting. Ainslie asked the Commission if there was additional information the Commission would like. Windsor requested a summary of public comment from the tourism forums to include number of recurring suggestions. Spivey asked staff to contact the charter fishing fleet to inquire about cruise passenger pick-ups. Spivey also requested information regarding the contract with the coach company used for cruise passengers. Riley requested that staff provide the Gateway Community Planning Assistance document written by the National Park Service in 1995.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Pat Kehoe asked for clarification on exactly how CPET funds could be used.

Ainslie explained that CPET funds were to be used on projects that would benefit cruise passengers but staff would work to provide a more comprehensive list of allowable uses.

**No action taken.**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, June 16, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Thor Christianson (Assembly liaison)

Absent: Darrell Windsor (Excused), Katie Riley (Excused)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Pat Kehoe, Chris McGraw, Loren Olsen, Sabrina Jenkins, Trish Prewitt, Amy Sweeney, Charles Bingham, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:28PM.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

Ainslie introduced the Gateway Community Planning Assistance document as requested by the Commission in a previous tourism planning meeting. The document was produced for Sitka by the National Park Service in 1997. Ainslie explained that the document provided a series of design recommendations related to visitor use management for the city to adopt. Ainslie highlighted the proposed shuttle service, parking analysis, downtown traffic layouts, and range of planning alternatives listed in the document.

Christianson recalled that a hop on hop off shuttle had been tried in the past with not much success and noted that a similar service may be possible via existing operators though cautioned that a pedestrian downtown would also restrict bus access.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment.

Charles Bingham commented that with increased cruise passengers, there would be increased demand on sidewalks especially on Lincoln Street as well as additional pressure on WIFI and cell services in town. Bingham suggested that improved bike lanes and bicycle infrastructure would provide non-motorized alternatives for commuting and local transportation, thereby reducing burden and impacts of streets. Pat Kehoe expressed interest in making Lincoln Street one way, as detailed in the gateway community plan, paired with an electric shuttle providing service through Lincoln Street.

Alderson voiced support for the recommendations provided in the gateway community plan as a good starting point for new planning efforts, and expressed interest in the possibility of increased pedestrian access through alleys and small streets. Spivey noted that the plan's recommendation was consistent with current public comment about the need for additional signage.

Ainslie introduced the Transit Services Contract. Ainslie explained that this year's contract was bid through an RFP open January 2020 where the city offered \$1.07 per passenger, paid for by Cruis Passenger Excise Tax (CPET) funds, for transportation from Old Sitka Dock to Harrigan Centennial Hall. The contract was awarded to Halibut Point Marine Services who subcontracted to Alaska Coach Company. Christianson noted that Assembly approval of future contracting services was not predetermined and may require additional conditions be met by the bidder going forward. Christianson stated that this may be the way to establish an incentive to move toward electric buses. Mudry replied that, in speaking with Chris McGraw, she understood electric buses to be approximately one million dollars, Christianson responded that he had spoken with companies that could provide them for half as much.

Spivey voiced concern over a comment made by the coach operator in a previous meeting, where it was explained that having multiple drop off locations would be cost prohibitive. Spivey questioned the purpose of discussing changes to transportation and dispersion methods if this were the case. Spivey asked if the minimum 48 passenger capacity of the buses were a limiting factor in the viability of multi-point drop-off or other drop-off locations. Christianson commented that 48 passengers was comparable to a school bus, and that many of the contractor's buses are larger. Christianson commented that 8,000 passengers a day at any single location would be too much of a burden, Spivey responded by asking if downtown could handle 8,000 passengers in a day.

Ainslie identified potential criteria for a new contract; looking into more than 1 drop off location, providing an incentive for electric buses, investigating the appropriate bus size, as well as the potential of implementing new bus run times to reduce impacts to traffic.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Chris McGraw commented that bus size varied from 48 passengers to 62 passengers. McGraw stated that to meet contract obligations and with a 30 minute round trip for a bus, it requires 16 buses on a 6,000 passenger days. McGraw explained that smaller buses required more buses to move passengers while larger buses meant fewer buses on the road. McGraw commented that dispersion through new attractions would alleviate some of the burden placed downtown and suggested that while 2 or more drop off points may be possible, it may contribute to visitor confusion as well as burden independent excursion providers who would need to service 2 locations as opposed to 1. Bingham commented that perhaps a collaborative bid to an RFP could disperse passengers.

Ainslie provided some additional context to CPET fund use, and stated that the funds were intended for services provided directly to vessel as well as enhancing safety and efficiency. Ainslie explained that any use of funds would need to be reasonable and stand up to any audit. Spivey requested staff to collate a list of examples of CPET funded projects from other communities.

Ainslie explained the information provided in the 2022 cruise calendar, highlighting large passenger days, the days of the week of the large passenger days, and the

times of cruise disembarkation and embarkation. Alderson noted that the earliest arrivals were between 6am and 8am, potentially conflicting with rush-hour traffic. Ainslie replied that there would likely be some lag between berth and the beginning of bus runs. McGraw suggested that the 2020 cruise season may be a good opportunity for a trial run of any suggested traffic pattern changes.

Ainslie read public comment from John Stein, who expressed concern for adequate restrooms and suggested a subscription cleaning service to regularly clean and stock restrooms for visitor use with a corresponding map.

No further public comment came forward.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:22PM.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, July 7, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson

Absent: Darrell Windsor, Katie Riley (Excused)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Brad Shaffer, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

**Attachments:** [Staff Memo 8.4.21](#)

Ainslie reviewed public comment submitted during the tourism planning forums and showed maps that displayed suggested drop-off locations and areas to avoid. Christianson suggested that Lincoln Street or a portion of it be used only for bus drop-off and pedestrians. The Commission discussed potential impacts to existing tour operators by a city-run shuttle service. Spivey voiced concern over actions that may block businesses during day-to-day operations. The Commission acknowledged that any plan would need to take business operations into account.

The Commission discussed the using the Baranof Elementary School parking lots as a drop-off location. Mudry asked if any summer programs used the school, Spivey and Alderson responded that the Ventures program used the school.

Ainslie noted that frequently identified concerns were inadequate or insufficient number of bathrooms, the traffic and environmental impacts from buses, and emergency service access. Alderson asked staff how the Sawmill Creek Road work would impact transportation and what detours might be expected. The Commission noted that tour bus operators would be challenged by a Jeff Davis Street reroute to access Sawmill Creek Road. Ainslie replied that staff would collect information about the Sawmill Creek Road project. Christianson commented that the Assembly was reviewing the possibilities of unburdening processes for taxi driver permitting, and that more taxi drivers may facilitate dispersion. Christianson voiced concern over safety of tour bus



drivers acting as tour guides and instead suggested that tour operators have separate tour guides and drivers to reduce the possibility of distracted driving.

Ainslie provided updates on cell tower projects in town and informed the Commission that she had reached out to phone and internet service providers to discuss the possibility of expanding coverage and capacity during the cruise season.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. No comment was made. Christianson and Ainslie identified a potential need for crosswalks on Sawmill Creek Road in front of the raptor center and on Halibut Point Road at the new Cross Trail trail head.

Ainslie provided a summary of findings. The Commission agreed with the findings and commented on the importance of signage and visitor information.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, July 21, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Darrell Windsor (Acting Chair), Stacy Mudry, Katie Riley  
Absent: Chris Spivey (Excused), Wendy Alderson (Excused)  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Kaleb Astle, Loren Olsen, Sabrina Jenkins, Jay Stillwell, Gerry Hope, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Acting Chair Windsor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

##### [MISC 21-09](#)

Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

**Attachments:** [Staff Memo\\_8.4.21](#)

Ainslie introduced the tourism discussion on transportation alternatives and read comment submitted by Chris McGraw. McGraw explained the challenges of using boats to transport passengers to and from the cruise terminal and stated that buses were more effective and affordable to run. Riley commented that the tourism planning effort should be used to think for the long-term transportation and environmental needs, expressing interest in electric vehicles for passenger transport.

Ainslie informed the Commission that traffic planners from the Department of Transportation would attend the tourism planning meeting on August 4th. Gerry Hope, Transportation Director for Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), explained that STA involvement would be critical if Katlian Avenue were used for passenger drop-off. Hope included that he had communicated with manufacturers of electric and hydrogen fueled vehicles and U.S. Congress to see costs and financing options for transportation alternatives which included light rail.

Kaleb Astle of Alaska Coach Company explained the access challenges for tour buses at Petro Marine North Plant. Astle noted that electric buses were approximately \$745,000 and suggested double decker buses with increased passenger capacity as a means to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

The Commission discussed pedestrian safety near the Lincoln Street and Lake Street intersection. Mudry noted a need for a cross-walk across Harbor Drive in front of Harrigan Centennial Hall, Ainslie suggested a crossing guard, and Astle offered an all-walk signal at the intersection to facilitate unobstructed vehicle turning.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Acting Chair Windsor adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Chris McGraw, Sabrina Jenkins, Melissa Henshaw, Amy Rowe, Hugh Bevan, Pat Kehoe, Lynne Brandon, Rachel Roy, Michael Harmon, Craig Warren, David Epstein, Joanne Schmidt, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

**Attachments:** [Staff Memo\\_8.4.21](#)

Ainslie introduced the discussion with a focus on traffic from the cruise ship dock to downtown. Ainslie introduced Joanne Schmidt and David Epstein of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT). The Commission requested the project schedule and detour routing for the DOT project on Sawmill Creek Road scheduled to begin in the summer of 2022. Epstein stated that while he was unable to provide specific information about the project, Epstein explained that the project would take place during the cruise tourism season and they recognized the impact on travel the project would have on traffic but would work closely with the city to mitigate impacts.

Attendees participated in an exercise where comments were added to a map of Halibut Point Road from the cruise dock to the Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road round-about. Comments included suggested areas for cross-walks, areas for sidewalks or walking paths for pedestrian safety, concern of traffic increases and possible traffic device alternatives.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Rachel Roy noted that rural status may be impacted by the number of traffic lights or other road works and that rural status was very important to the community. Schmidt responded that she was not

aware of any impact to rural status as a result of road and traffic improvements.

Alderson voiced concern over the expected traffic increase and impacts on Halibut Point Road as a result of housing and clinic development at the Community Hospital site.

Epstein informed the Commission that cross-walks in the area 5951 Halibut Point Road would require traffic calming methods.

McGraw stated that on the busiest day, there would be an anticipated 30 coaches per hour as well as tour operators.

Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, explained that traffic engineers could find the appropriate solutions but public input would be helpful to identify problems and goals for engineers to take into account. Harmon explained that the project on Sawmill Creek Road would have an impact on traffic. The Commission voiced concern over impacts to daily life, other construction projects, and tourism that the roadwork would cause.

**No motion made.**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, September 15, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor (Arrived 7:30pm), Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)  
Absent: None  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Jim Michener, Phyllis Hackett, Kaleb Astle, Marsha Howard, Chris McGraw, Michael Harmon (Public Works Director), Tamy Stevenson, Amy Rowe, Sabrina Jenkins, Shauna Thornton, Sabrina Jenkins, Michele Martin, Wendy Lindskoog, Gerry Hope, Lynne Brandon, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel), Katherine Rose (KCAW)

Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

#### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

#### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

A [PM 21-21](#) Approve the August 18, 2021 meeting minutes.

M-Mudry/S-Riley moved to approve the August 18, 2021 meeting minutes.

#### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

#### V. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ainslie informed the Commission that there was one regular business item ahead of the tourism discussion. Ainslie reported an update on the Sawmill Creek Road project, stating that Alaska Department of Transportation would schedule a presentation with the Planning Commission around February to discuss project details. Ainslie explained that the next meeting was scheduled for October 6th, 2021 and would discuss traffic and staging at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

#### VI. REPORTS

#### VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS

B [LM 21-01](#) Public hearing and consideration of a tidelands lease request for municipal tidelands immediately adjacent to 1406 Sawmill Creek Road

in the WD - Waterfront district. The lots are also known as All of ATS 1327 Tract A and a portion of ATS 1327 Tract B. The request is filed by Thomas Williamson. The owners of record are Sharon and Lisa Williamson.

**C**     [MISC 21-09](#)     Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

Ainslie introduced the discussion to focus on downtown traffic and congestion mitigation for 2022, identify the problems the need to be addressed by the Summer of 2022, and discuss what solutions the Commission and community were most interested to see implemented. Ainslie noted that the solutions for 2022 were not intended to replace an in-depth traffic study or replace needed long-term solutions but focus on what can be implemented within a year. Ainslie explained that discussion of traffic and staging around Harrigan Centennial Hall would take place October 6th.

Problems identified included increased risk of using residential roads such as Peterson Avenue and Lake Street, impacts of traffic on emergency services, impacts of traffic on bicycle movement, and a lack of downtown parking. The participants discussed possible solutions including Lincoln Street closures or traffic flow changes, modifications to traffic light signaling, and using a person to direct traffic at the light. Michael Harmon, Public Works Director for the City and Borough of Sitka, noted that the current sidewalks were inadequate for the current pedestrian capacity, and were vastly insufficient to handle the projected pedestrian use which might result in pedestrian use of the road or avoidance of downtown. Chair Spivey requested that future discussion of Lincoln Street closure include discussion of the RIDE.

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 9:01pm.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, October 6, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson  
Absent: Katie Riley (Excused)  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Lisa Busch, Martha Moses, Kent Barkhau, Stefania Potrzuski, Kaleb Astle, Chris McGraw, Tony Rosas, Jennifer Mingo, Steven Eisenbeisz, Michael Harmon, Camille Ferguson, Rebecca Himshoot, Rachel Roy, Laurie Booyse, Sabrina Jenkins, Michele Martin, Ellen Frankenstein, Gerry Hope, Dale Lindstrom, John Dunlap, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

#### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

**A** [PM 21-22](#) Approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes.

**M-Mudry/S-Alderson moved to approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

#### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Steven Eisenbeisz shared his experience with planter boxes at head height over the sidewalk on Lincoln Street and suggested the Commission consider a zoning code amendment to avoid infringements on pedestrian movement and safety.

#### V. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ainslie informed the Commission that staff intended to present options for downtown tourism planning within the next meeting or in November. Ainslie reminded attendees to sign up for the tourism email list for updates on tourism planning.

#### VI. REPORTS

#### VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS

**B** [CUP 21-13](#) Public hearing and consideration of a conditional use permit for an expansion of a legal nonconforming use of a hatchery at 834 Lincoln Street in the R-2 multifamily district. The property is also known as Lot 7,



Sheldon Jackson Campus Subdivision and a portion of ATS 15. The request is filed by Sitka Sound Science Center. The owner of record is Sitka Sound Science Center.

**C**     [MISC 21-09](#)     Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

Ainslie introduced the tourism planning discussion, with a focus on traffic flow and staging at Harrigan Centennial Hall (HCH). Ainslie guided discussion through problem identification and space optimization for HCH. Participants identified HCH staff and facilities as an item that currently worked well. Participants identified areas of pedestrian and vehicle safety concerns as well as traffic flow pinch points. Designated and permitted parking were suggested. Some identified unmet needs were downtown signage and maps, easy-to-find recycling, representation of Tlingit culture, as well as parking space for both tourism and non-tourism activities. Participants identified priority uses in areas around HCH.

Caleb Astle clarified that while Alaska Coach Tours operated the dock-to-town shuttle service, that function was separate from its tourism operations. Astle noted tendering at Crescent Harbor, Ainslie responded that staff would analyze the cruise schedule for tendering at Crescent Harbor. Ainslie told the Commission that staff expected to present options for the downtown tourism planning effort at the October 20th meeting.

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, October 20, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Lisa Busch, Kent Barkhau, Bill Foster, Ralph Jones, John Stein, Jim Michener, Stefania Potrzuski, Emily Wagner, Trish White, Chance Gray, Loren Olsen, Hugh Bevan, Rebecca Himshoot, Gerry Hope, Sabrina Jenkins, Amy Rowe, Ellen Frankstein, Renee Reeve, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

Ainslie presented staff analysis and recommendations for Lincoln Street closure options as well as scenarios that were not recommended. Traffic scenarios that were not recommended included partial closures of Lincoln Street as well as partial and full one-way direction of traffic on Lincoln Street. Ainslie noted that all of these partial measures would likely result in confusion and were intensive to mobilize barricades.

Ainslie then presented recommended options. Option A was to close Lincoln Street to vehicles from the Lake/Lincoln with intersections to the Lincoln/Katlian Intersection Feeder routes (Barracks, American, Maksoutoff, Cathedral, and other unnamed alleys) blocked from entry. Option B would leave Lincoln Street open to vehicular traffic as one-way only headed west from Lake intersection to Katlian intersection. Pedestrians, amenities, and vending could take place in the 'east bound' traffic and parking lanes. "Vehicle crossing designations" would be available for bank drive-thru and pull-in parking spaces designated near churches. A temporary but substantial median would be necessary to separate pedestrians and vehicles. This would be in place all season.

Option C was described as a hybrid of the Options A and B where Lincoln would be closed when needed, but otherwise staged to re-open as Option B with all amenities and potential vending staged in the east bound lane, even when road was fully closed.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Jim Michener noted that the projected passengers were approximately three times as many as in 2019. Michener voiced support for Option A, and felt that emergency vehicles could still be allowed through during a road closure. Ralph Jones of the RIDE commented that Lincoln Street closure would disrupt and displace traffic and impact ridership of the RIDE. Kent Barkau advocated for more long-term tourism visioning and planning as well as investigation of how and when to control the number of cruise passengers. Hugh Bevan noted the urgency of ordering supplies now and identifying storage locations. Bevan recommended the City pursue contracting services out for mobilization of barricades through the RFP process and that mass mailing would be necessary to notify the public of road closures. Bevan suggested the City should have a trial run of the closure before the start of the tourist season. John Stein commented that the labor intensive nature of road closures would result in job creation. Bill Foster commented that the closed road should look inviting for pedestrians and voiced support for electric busses, changes to pedestrian crossing cycles at the intersection, and the color used to indicate street parking. Rebecca Himshoot advocated for traffic cops at challenging intersections and crossings. Gerry Hope commented on the willingness of the RIDE to participate in decision making.

Ainslie read public comment from Jim Steffan who advocated for lightering passengers into town from the dock and improving the shuttle bus fleet with preference for electric busses. Steffan suggested the area around the Baranof School playground as suitable for bus drop off.

Commission agreed to resume the discussion in the following regular meeting.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, November 3, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Darrell Windsor (Acting Chair), Stacy Mudry, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: Chris Spivey (Excused), Wendy Alderson

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Joe Ieremia, Sandy McClung, Loren Olsen, Laurie Booyse, Gerry Hope, Michele Martine, Wendy Lindskoog, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Windsor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

Ainslie introduced the discussion on direct-use infrastructure needs for the short-term tourism plan and explained that indirect-use infrastructure needs would be discussed at the November 17th meeting. Ainslie noted that direct-use infrastructure applied to projects that would be used directly by tourists, some examples given were restrooms, waste and recycle bins, and benches. Ainslie explained that the purposed of the discussion was to identify what was needed, how many, and where they were needed.

Chair Windsor opened the floor for public comment. Ainslie read public comment submitted by John Murray, who identified lack of restrooms and the condition of restrooms as a concern, as well as an illuminated crosswalk across Harbor Drive, and pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Lake and Lincoln Streets.

Riley suggested portable restrooms along Crescent Park and Totem Square, and noted that supply and shipping challenges may be a challenge for procurement. Mudry suggested contacting a local provider. Christianson suggested an incentive program for downtown businesses or facilities to open their restrooms for visitors.

Sandy McClung of Sitka Sound Science Center agreed that a subsidy to offset costs of bathroom supplies and cleaning would be a good incentive. McClung explained that the Science Center received a lot of visitors requesting restroom access through the summer and that their capacity was limited, especially with regards to ADA

accessibility.

Riley noted that water fountains with bottle refill stations would help to reduce waste from plastic bottles. The Commission discussed the need for benches. Riley suggested that the city use local craftsmen to provide benches however, the Commission acknowledged the possible need for portability.

The Commission discussed signage needs. Laurie Booyse of Visit Sitka commented that graphic design continuity and consistency was important for visitors to navigate way finding tools throughout the city. Booyse mentioned that Visit Sitka had an online map for people to reference and updates to the map could be done quickly. Windsor asked if the maps could be downloaded from the ships to prevent overburdening of local WIFI and cellular infrastructure. Booyse replied that Visit Sitka was working with the cruise companies to make that possible.

Christianson and the Commission discussed the need to meet with the Assembly during and after the tourist season to discuss the results of the plan and make adjustments as needed.

The Commission agreed to continue their discussion after the following regular meeting.

**No motion made.**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Windsor adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, November 17, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)  
Absent: Stacy Mudry (excused)  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Rebecca Himshoot, Michael Harmon, Tony Rosas, Stefania Potrzuski, John Dunlap, Kord Christianson, Loren Olsen, Clint Daniels, Kristi Colthorp, Bruce Conine, Michelle Barker, Kaleb Astle, Theresa Jacoby Massei, Sabrina Jenkins, Shauna Thornton, Michele Martin, Cynthia Gibson, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

**Attachments:** [DRAFT\\_Short-Term Tourism Plan](#)

Ainslie introduced the discussion on Harrigan Centennial Hall traffic and staging. Ainslie explained that the staff recommendation considered safety, space optimization, clarity, and parking lot pressure alleviation as its guiding principles. Ainslie explained that the enabling factors of the recommendation were efficient loading/unloading of passengers, permitting, and vehicle restrictions. Ainslie reviewed options 1 and 2 of the campus plan recommendations.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Trudy Pruitt and Michelle Barker voiced concern over option 1 as potentially detrimental to their excursion operations and pedestrian safety. Bruce Conine expressed support of the general concept to limit Harrigan loop to large busses and Harbor loop to small busses and vans. Conine suggested the Ride be moved from the Crescent parking lot and taxis take their place. Theresa Jacoby Massei expressed safety concerns of large and small busses operating in Harbor loop. Caleb Astle provided dimensions of shuttles at 45' and tour busses at 40'.

Spivey asked how the tabletop between Crescent parking and Harrigan loop could be closed. Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, explained that the area was designed for such a closure and could be closed using something as temporary as a sandwich board sign or could use bollards.

Spivey asked if the rear of Harrigan Centennial Hall had adequate space for pedestrian traffic and outfitter staging. Tony Rosas, Manager of Harrigan Centennial Hall, confirmed that there was. Rebecca Himshoot asked if there was access for emergency vehicles, Ainslie replied that there was. John Dunlap responded that, as a kayak outfitter, he saw potential benefit to the proposed location for outfitters at the rear of Centennial Hall. Thor Christianson expressed concern over the loss of the boat launch during the cruise season.

The Commission agreed to resume the discussion in the November 17 regular meeting.

**No motion made**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, December 1, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)  
Absent: None  
Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia  
Public: Jay Stilwell, Sabrina Jenkins, Wendy Lindskoog, Melissa Henshaw, Shauna Thornton, Tomy Stevenson, Stefania Potrzuski, Kathleen Brandt, John Dunlap, Loren Olsen

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Harvey Brant addressed the Commission with a request that the body consider increasing the street lighting of Lincoln Street, particularly the portion between Saint Michael's Cathedral and Totem Square.

#### **VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

##### [MISC 21-09](#)

##### Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

Ainslie introduced the discussion on indirect infrastructure and future planning needs. Ainslie identified staff recommendations for an impact study and traffic study to assess conditions during the cruise season as well as a permitting strategy to coordinate permitting procedures across departments.

Ainslie provided background information previously requested by the Commission. Ainslie noted the estimated cost of water bottle filling stations at approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 per unit. Ainslie explained that cruise ship use of water was charged at a metered rate and waste water was not disposed of in Sitka's wastewater system, and that the current water infrastructure was adequate for anticipated demands. Ainslie explained that while some small cruise lines dispose of solid waste in Sitka, vessels above 500 passengers did not. Ainslie explained that Sitka Free Wifi was no longer functional and to reinstate the service would be costly and not lessen the burden on cellular data.

Riley suggested that future planning efforts address work force development and retention, especially with regards to cost and availability of housing.



The Commission discussed the challenge of Sawmill Creek Road closure and potential impact to a traffic study. Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, responded that a model can account for road closures. The Commission agreed that the Assembly should move forward with a request to AK DOT to conduct a traffic study.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Harvey Brant expressed concern that proposed plans would restrict access to Sitka Lutheran Church, to those with difficulty climbing stairs, as would be required if entered by the Harbor Drive rear entrance.

Chris McGraw stated that the city should develop a downtown transportation hub as demands for Harrigan Centennial Hall exceeds capacity. John Dunlap commented that use of CPET funds should ensure that residents do not shoulder the burden of tourism.

Ainslie read public comment from Hugh Bevan, who stated that the city should hire a private company to conduct a traffic study.

Ainslie read public comment from Charles Bingham, who questioned whether the proposed street closure times would be sufficient.

The Commission requested that staff look for a list of approved projects funded through CPET funds in other communities to clarify acceptable use of funds.

**M-Windsor/S-Alderson moved to recommend the Assembly request a traffic study from Alaska Department of Transportation. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.**

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Final

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, December 15, 2021

7:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Shauna Thornton, Terry Stevens, Michelle Barker, Michael Harmon, Trudy Pruitt, Andy Nye, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

#### **A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan**

Ainslie presented an overview of the draft short-term tourism plan. The Commission opened the floor for public comment at the end of each section summary. Michelle Barker of Sitka Bike and Hike suggested that the city use multiple drop-off locations across the city instead of concentrating use at Harrigan Centennial Hall. Barker also stated that each cruise ship had their own app and suggested that the city could share maps and information with cruise passengers through cruise apps rather than developing its own. Ainslie responded that shuttle operators had expressed hesitation in using multiple drop off locations for cruise passenger shuttling due to concerns about increased confusion, staging space needs, and duplication of services at each drop-off location. Ainslie explained that some tour operators would pick up from Harrigan Centennial Hall but drop off at other locations, which would reduce space demands on Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Thor Christianson excused himself at 8:15pm.

Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, commented that placement and removal of barricades was a significant challenge and frequent changes to barricades would be difficult to implement. Shauna Thornton of First National Bank of Alaska expressed the need to ensure ADA accessibility and drive-through access to banks. Trudy Pruitt asked for collaboration and compromise to ensure a successful tourism season. Andy Nye of Sitka Zodiac Adventures commented that outfitter relocation to the back of

Harrigan Centennial Hall meant less visibility for his business but noted that the ability to advertise at the front of Harrigan Centennial Hall would be beneficial. He added that his business does not sell tickets on the cruises and relied on clear visibility for prospective customers.

The Commission discussed edits to the plan draft. Edits included changes to clarify and strengthen language and address concerns of ADA parking for banks on Lincoln Street, and potential impacts on the intersection of Seward and Lake Streets.

Ainslie informed the Commission that a community survey to gain public feedback and comment on the draft plan would run from December 17th to January 9th. Ainslie explained that the survey would be a Google form with options for paper submission and would be advertised using flyers with QR codes linked to the survey, social media, radio, and newspaper. The Commission requested the survey gain feedback on Lincoln Street closure, the looping shuttle, the park and ride, and incentives for non-car transportation recommendations as well as a question to identify barriers perceived by the public on starting a tourism related business.

**No motion made.**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objection, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 9:32pm.**

Ainslie asked the Commission to determine whether the outstanding condition of approval regarding site plan review had been satisfied.

Windsor asked if more staff was proposed and the implication it would have on Sitka's rural status.

Representing the applicant, Maegan Bosak was present and replied that she did not believe the increase to staff would jeopardize Sitka's rural status.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment.

Kent Barkhau asked for consideration of the amount of energy use needed for the hospital, which would require a third of current capacity. Windsor asked staff if electrical impacts were considered. Ainslie explained that the Electric Department had reviewed the proposal. Christianson added that providing a dedicated line to Japonski Island had been discussed.

Riley asked if the applicants were to present their development plans to the broader community. Bosak responded that they would and community groups could schedule presentations through their marketing team.

The Commission agreed that the outstanding condition had been met.

**M-Riley/S-Mudry moved that condition of approval number one attached to CUP 20-12 had been satisfied. The restriction on Planning Department approval of the foundation permit as described in condition number two of this permit was hereby lifted. All other conditions attached to the permit remained in effect. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

**M-Riley/S-Mudry moved to adopt the required findings for conditional use permits as listed in the staff report in conjunction with the now completed application for a hospital at 227 Tongass Drive in the Public lands district subject to the modified conditions of approval. The property was also known as Lot 1, SEARHC Subdivision. The request was filed by the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. The owner of record was the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

H [MISC 22-01](#)

Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan final draft.

**Attachments:** [FINAL DRAFT Short-Term Tourism Plan](#)

Ainslie introduced the discussion on the short-term tourism plan as an opportunity to make any desired edits to the draft before final submission to the Assembly. Ainslie noted that the budget information had been updated and the note on use of the area below O'Connell bridge had been included. Ainslie stated that the schedule for Assembly review was discussion of the proposal January 25th and possible adoption on February 8th.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Tammy Stevenson voiced concern of potential impacts to downtown businesses and asked about notification process for engagement with downtown businesses. Windsor replied that every meeting had been advertised and open to the public. Ainslie explained that while there had not been a mass mailing to businesses, staff had canvassed downtown businesses and organizations for involvement, and collected an email list of approximately 150 participants to be notified on tourism planning meetings.

Christianson added that the Assembly had split the discussion across 2 meetings to allow for additional public comment and involvement. Kent Barkhau commented that there had never been community discussion on whether cruise tourism growth was in the best interest of the community.

Riley asked that the community survey be added to the appendix of the plan.

**M-Mudry-S-Riley moved to recommend Assembly approval and adoption of the Short-Term Tourism Plan. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

I [MISC 22-02](#)

Discussion/Direction to change the regular meeting time from 7:30 pm on the first and third Wednesday each month to 7:00 pm on the first and third Wednesday each month.

The Commission voiced their approval of moving the regular meeting time back to 7:00pm.

**M-Riley/S-Mudry moved to change the regular meeting time from 7:30pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month to 7:00pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, acting Chair Windsor adjourned the meeting at 9:29pm.