



Friends of the Alaska Marine Highway System

Alaska Ferry Advocacy Group

October 15, 2019

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, we now have a better idea what the Governor's cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System will mean for our communities. It's not a pretty picture.

The Transportation Department's winter schedule shows a major reduction in service to all communities along the ferry route. Some communities will have no service at all between October 31 and April 30. Public transportation is much more than getting people from point A to point B. It's an essential part of our social fabric, moving athletic teams, cargo, entire households, medical supplies and patients – the list is almost endless. Ferry service is vital to our community and is often the only way our residents can travel.

The refusal to invest in public transportation puts a stranglehold on our future. It can't be allowed to happen.

Ferry service is our highway, and we need it all year long. State support for it represents an investment in our economy, our community, our future. Public transit is a fundamental right.

Now we have reached a critical point in this battle. Since the middle of the last session, we have been talking to the legislative leadership about restoring ferry service funding. We have had good discussions, and we are working together to develop a plan for how the AMHS will look in the future and how it will be funded.

But now is the time to show the breadth of our support. We need to create a broad, powerful coalition of citizens and organizations from the communities most affected by the Governor's cuts to ferry service. We must organize to rescue the system and reinstate the \$64 million earmarked for the AMHS operating budget in the general fund.

I am asking you to be part of this group. Please let me know by telephone (907-321-9585) or email percyfrisby@gmail.com if you can join us.

I hope very much to hear from you. Together we can save our ferry system.

Percy Frisby