

Alaska Marine Highway System

Prince William Sound, Alaska

(November 2002)

Description

The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities proposes to use funds available through the Alaska/Hawaii Ferry discretionary program to purchase a new high-speed ferry. The comprehensive and larger AMHS fleet improvement plan calls for four new high speed ferries to provide service to communities in the following minimum operable segment (MOS) corridors:

- Whittier, Valdez, Cordova (MOS 1)
- Juneau, Sitka (MOS 2)
- Ketchikan, Petersburg (MOS 3)
- Juneau, Petersburg (MOS 4)

The FTA-funded vessel for this project will provide daily, point-to-point service in the Prince William Sound region of southeast Alaska between Whittier, Valdez and Cordova (MOS 1). Compared to conventional ferries, the fast ferry will provide service that is more reliable, consistent and convenient for passengers and crew. Daily service will provide easier access to medical and other professional services.

For this project, an existing vessel design will be modified under one contract. Vessel construction, under separate contract, will be off-site. Vessel delivery is anticipated in 2005.

The capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$38.5 million. The FTA Section 5309 funding share is expected to be \$24.9 million. Because the proposed New Starts share is less than \$25 million, the project is exempt from the New Starts criteria, and is thus not subject to FTA's evaluation and rating. (49 USC 5309(e)(8)(A)).

Summary Description	
Proposed Project:	Alaska Marine Highway System
Total Capital Cost (\$YOE):	\$38.5 Million
Section 5309 New Starts Share (\$YOE):	\$24.9 Million (65%)
Annual Operating Cost:	N/A
Ridership Forecast:	N/A

Status

The Prince William Sound Ferry purchase was included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2001-2003 in February 2000. The project is also included in the *Prince William Sound/Copper River Area Transportation Plan, November 2000*.

FTA approved AMHS to initiate Preliminary Engineering and Final Design in August 2001. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$41.01 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the Alaska/Hawaii ferry projects.

Locally Proposed Financial Plan		
<u>Proposed Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (\$million)</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts	\$24.9	64.8%
FHWA	\$5.8	15.1%
State:		
State Match	\$7.7	20.1%
Total:	\$38.5	100.0%

NOTE: Funding proposal reflects assumptions made by project sponsors, and are not DOT or FTA assumptions. Total may not add due to rounding.

Alaska Marine Highway System

Prince William Sound, Alaska



