MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY

GATEWAY TO THE GOLD RUSH OF "98"
POST OFFICE BOX 415
SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840
(907) 983-2297 (PHONE)
(907) 983-2151 (FAX)

7 November 2008

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin
Alaska State Capitol Building - Third Floor
Post Office Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Subject: Tayia Rive Bridge

Dear Governor Palin,

The Municipality of Skagway is deeply concerned with recent actions taken by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to derate the carrying capacity of the Tayia River Bridge located on the Dyea Road. The bridge is owned by the State and located on a State road.

By limiting the load capacity of the Tayia River Bridge, the community now faces a critical public safety crisis with our ability to provide ambulance, rescue and fire protection to Borough residents, travelers and property found on the other side of the bridge.

There is certainly an economic impact to the Borough as well. Commercial tour operators, commercial contractors, and Park Service equipment will not have ready access to the Dyea community and surrounding lands.

At their regularly scheduled meeting of 6 November 2008, the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway passed Resolution Number 2008-22R urging you to take immediate steps to insure the Tayia River Bridge is repaired or replaced by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and that funding is included for this effort in the Administration's upcoming budget.

Please contact my office if there are any questions concerning this request or the problems we are facing with the derating of the Tayia River Bridge.

Sincerely,

Thomas D Cochran

Thomas D. Cochran - Mayor Municipality of Skagway

Cc: Representative Bill Thomas, Jr.
Senator Albert Kookesh

Proposed by:	Administration
Vote: 6 Aye	0 Nay 0 Absent

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-22R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE TAIYA RIVER BRIDGE AND INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE ADMINISTRATION FY 2010 BUDGET TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EFFORT.

WHEREAS, The Taiya River Bridge is owned by the State of Alaska and located on the State owned Dyea Road; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has recently taken steps to derate the load capacity of the Taiya River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, This action prevents emergency first responders access to both visitors and community residents located on the opposite side of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, Inability to access the Dyea Community of the Skagway Borough with emergency response vehicles is a crisis in itself; and

WHEREAS, This action prevents passage of construction equipment to lands in the Dyea and West Creek regions of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, This action directly impacts the operations of commercial tour operators carrying passengers to the historic Dyea town site; and

WHEREAS, This action limits public access to National Park facilities and infrastructure,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipality of Skagway Borough Assembly urges the Governor to immediately take the steps necessary to insure the Taiya River Bridge is repaired or replaced by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and that funding is included in the Administration FY 2010 Budget to accomplish this effort.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of November, 2008 by the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska.

Thomas D. Cochran

Thomas D. Cochran, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marjorie D. Harris, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

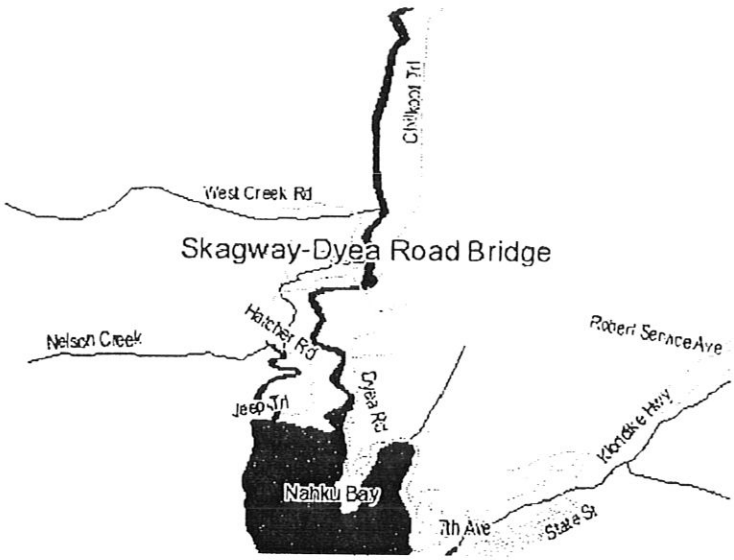
MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY ALASKA SEAL GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

Skagway-Dyea Road Bridge

Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Alaska

Overview
Post comment
Contact webmaster
On this page: Map · Facts · Categories · Comments

Map



Vicinity map

Map links:

- Google Maps
- Yahoo! Maps
- TopoZone
- Terraserver USA

Facts

Overview
: Through truss bridge over Taiya River on Skagway-Dyea Road in Skagway

Location
: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Alaska

Status
: Open to traffic

History
: Built 1948

Design
: Through truss

Dimensions
: Length of largest span: 200.1 ft.
: Total length: 205.1 ft.

Deck width: 12.8 ft.
Vertical clearance above deck: 11.5 ft.

Approximate latitude, longitude
+59.51333, -135.34500 *(decimal degrees)*
59°30'48" N, 135°20'42" W *(degrees°minutes'seconds")*

Approximate UTM coordinates
8/480474/6597264 *(zone/easting/northing)*

Inventory numbers
AK 309 *(Alaska bridge number)*
BH 10047 *(Bridgehunter.com ID)*

Inspection *(as of 05/2006)*
Deck condition rating: Fair *(5 out of 9)*
Superstructure condition rating: Poor *(4 out of 9)*
Substructure condition rating: Fair *(5 out of 9)*
Appraisal: Structurally deficient
Sufficiency rating: 39.5 *(out of 100)*

Average daily traffic *(as of 2006)*
200

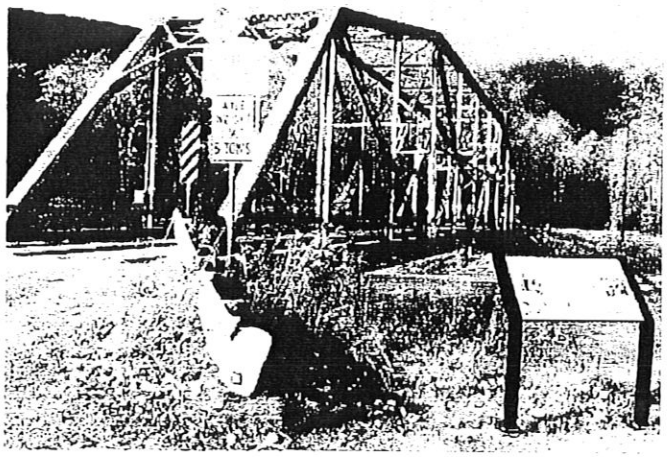
Taiya River bridge derating curtails heavy traffic

Fire trucks, other vehicles too heavy

By JEFF BRADY

An inspection this past July of the Taiya River bridge has resulted in enforcement of a 5 ton per axle limit, prompting a real concern that fire trucks and other essential vehicles will no longer be able to access Dyea.

"The current load posting axle weight limit on the bridge is 5 tons, which was in place at the time of the critical inspection," wrote Roger Wetherell, spokesman for the



The Taiya River bridge has been rated "structurally deficient." *JB*

Kirko said he has learned from inspectors that the bridge currently is rated at 40 percent of its original capacity, which was apparently 10 tons per axle back when the bridge was constructed in 1948.

"It may have been rated below since then, but now there is a posted sign," he said.

Wetherall was trying to confirm the last inspection of the bridge prior to this past summer's. He said it may have been in March 2005.

On the website www.bridgehunters.com, which features reports on historic bridges in the U.S., the Dyea bridge's superstructure is listed as "poor" and its deck and substructure "fair." The overall appraisal since 2006 is "structurally deficient."

The Dyea Advisory Board and Skagway Borough Assembly discussed the issue at meetings last week.

Public Safety Committee chair Mark Schaefer said his conversations with DOT indicate the bridge will be derated again, and that currently the department can't take its own gravel trucks across the bridge.

This means gravel extraction from the borough's pit by West Creek will have to stop as well, along with fuel deliveries, and other heavy vehicle uses. Robert Murphy, whose tour company has horses across the river, has already asked the borough for permission to move his heavy equipment to his property via a landing craft on the Dyea flats.

"I want to see some movement to get (the bridge) fixed or replaced," Schaefer told the assembly.

The assembly will be preparing its CIP priority list for the governor's budget and the legislature on Oct. 16.

Kirko said he is compiling data for that meeting.

"I'm hoping these facts help push that project into the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) to get it repaired or replaced to make it a safe, usable bridge to cross the river," Kirko said.

A public safety meeting also will be scheduled for next week to address new emergency procedures for Dyea, he said.

Skagway News
October 10, 2008