

Alaska Marine Highways - Alaska Class Ferry Vessel

FY2010 Request: \$60,000,000

Reference No: 48310

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Southeast Alaska

Contact: Unknown

House District: Southeast Areawide (HD 1-5)

Contact Phone: (999)999-9999

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2014

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This is a new FY11 capital request. The Alaska Class Ferry will be the next generation of ferries for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The design will incorporate state-of-the-art safety features and data gleaned from past projects. As replacements for certain existing vessels, these new vessels will be added to the fleet to operate on routes within Alaska's inside-waters. These new vessels will be an important step in the continuing goal of AMHS to maintain a safe, reliable and modern fleet of ferries. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.

Funding:	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total
Vessel Rep	\$60,000,000						\$60,000,000
Total:	\$60,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$60,000,000 was appropriated from the general fund to the AMHS Vessel Replacement fund in Chapter 29, SLA 2008, Section 36(c), Page 211, Line 29-30.

Project Description/Justification:

At present, the AMHS fleet includes four ferries built before 1964. As these vessels age beyond 45 years of service, they become very costly to maintain. The age of the vessels is also a threat to the ability of AMHS to offer reliable sailing schedules. As an extreme example, on November 20, 2007, the four oldest Washington State Ferries were dramatically removed from service because of concerns with hull integrity. These Steel Electric Class ferries were ultimately retired from the Washington State Ferries (WSF) fleet because the cost to repair a single vessel was nearly one third the cost of a new vessel.

Although the retired WSF vessels were nearly 80 years old, AMHS has recognized that it may face a similar situation. In late 2006, AMHS embarked on a project to study the requirements for designing a vessel operating in Lynn Canal. Working with other departments within DOT&PF, it has broadened the mission of the vessel to operate in all routes within inside-waters in order to support the needs of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan, and the Juneau Access road project .

