

**Southeast Emergency Communications Upgrade****FY2001 Request: \$400,350**  
**Reference No: 32371****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Juneau Areawide**Contact:** Kenneth E. Bischoff**House District:** Juneau Areawide (HD 3-4)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4336**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2001**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Place eight communications repeaters in Southeast Alaska to improve emergency communications.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
Gen Fund	\$350,350						\$350,350
IA/OIL HAZ	\$50,000						\$50,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$400,350</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$400,350</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input 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:	92,198	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>92,198</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

This project involves partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard to use their existing sites.

**Project Description/Justification:****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will place VHF two-way radio repeaters with antenna systems in eight locations in Southeast Alaska to greatly improve the emergency communication available in this area of the state.

**PROJECT NEED STATEMENT**

The State presently has very little in the way of communication site infrastructure in Southeast Alaska. Development of sites all over this area is cost prohibitive. Over the past several years the State has been seeking solutions for development of a public safety two-way radio system that could be operated from dispatch centers in Juneau and Ketchikan utilizing sites somewhere in the Southeast Alaska corridor. After considerable research it was determined that partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard to use their existing sites was possible since they will be upgrading all of their equipment in this area in the near future and will allow the State to use their sites at no cost.

This project envisions placing the repeaters at the following locations:

1. Althorp Peak - near Cape Spencer
2. Cape Fanshaw - which transmits to Althorp Peak
3. Duke Island - which transmits to Gravina Island / High Mt.
4. Gravina Island / High Mountain - near Ketchikan
5. Mt. McArthur - near Port Alexander
6. Mt. Robert Barron - near Juneau
7. Sukkwan Island - near Hydaburg
8. Zarembo Island - near Wrangell and Petersburg

The resulting repeater system would be a shared communications system that will be used by:

- . The Alaska State Troopers (DPS/AST) for general law enforcement communications traffic. AST is responsible for police protection within the areas that would be served by the new system. AST operates 24-hour dispatch centers throughout the state.
- . Emergency Medical Services (DH&SS/EMS) personnel in the nearby communities around these sites. With this repeater system, EMS personnel would have the ability to communicate back to a 24-hour dispatch center for emergencies. The new system would enhance EMS response to accidents.
- . Responders to oil spills. The DEC/ Spill Prevention & Response would like to have a two-way radio system that will give them the ability to communicate from their Juneau headquarters location to these areas in the event of a spill incident. This repeater system will also enhance their response to oil spill incidents. In terms of spill response, the Inland Passage in Southeast Alaska has remained an area of concern in terms of such communications for some time.
- . The Alaska Marine Highway has recently also expressed an interest in this project. Coordination will take place during FY2000.

**DOCUMENTATION OF ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST**

The Department of Administration, Information Technology Group, Section of Telecommunications has estimated the following costs based upon familiarity with costs of similar equipment available from several manufacturers:

Equipment:		
8 X VHF repeaters	\$110,000	
Antenna systems	\$ 20,000	
Frame relay devices needed for Juneau and Ketchikan circuits	\$ 45,000	
Multiplex channel and other equipment for use at the USCG sites	\$ 50,000	
Subtotal		\$ 225,000
Circuit installation costs:		\$ 11,152
Circuit costs (first year):		\$ 65,798
Other Installation costs:		
Installation costs of repeaters at 8 sites	\$ 42,000	
Installation of frame relay devices Juneau & Ketchikan	\$ 5,000	
Contracted installation modifications at USCG sites to allow repeaters on site	\$ 25,000	
Subtotal		\$ 72,000
Maintenance costs (first year):		\$ 26,400
Total		\$400,350

**ANALYSIS OF ESTIMATED OPERATIONAL COSTS**

Operating costs will consist of two elements:		
Maintenance contract (private sector)	\$ 26,400	
Circuit costs	\$ 65,798	
Total yearly operating costs		\$ 92,198

**IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

. Continue to rely on the current communications capability - This is unacceptable due to the physical danger to the State of Alaska Capital Project Summary  
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public in delayed responses to SAR and EMS calls for assistance and delays in spill response, each of which can be avoided.

. Contract with a private communications company - This is unacceptable due to the potential high cost of providing the service that could not be supported by the agencies involved.

**TIC/TAC Document:****What is the purpose of this project?**

This project will improve emergency communications in Southeast Alaska.

**How does this project solve the agency's Y2K problems?**

This project will not specifically address DPS or the other agencies involved in the project's Y2K problems or issues, although the hardware and software will be Y2K compliant.

**Is this request on your agency's work plan?**

This project is not part of the DPS, DH&SS or DEC Y2K work plans and is not intended to deal with the Y2K issue.

**Has this project been previously approved by the TIC/TAC?**

This project has not been submitted previously.

**Project cost past/present/future?**

This project will initially cost \$400,352 for FY01 and will have an ongoing future yearly cost of \$92,200 to maintain and operate the system.

**Is this new systems development project, upgrade, or enhancement?**

This is an entirely new communications project that will develop a public safety two-way radio system that can be operated from existing DPS dispatch centers in Juneau and Ketchikan, through a partnering agreement with the US Coast Guard to utilize their communications sites to place repeaters in Southeast Alaska.

**What specific hardware/software/consulting/etc. will be purchased?**

Repeaters will be placed in eight sites, antenna systems, frame relays and miscellaneous equipment.

**How will service to the public improve if this project is funded?**

The public traveling in Southeast Alaska will have increased safety and increased access to public safety services in times of emergency.

**How does the project fit into the department's long-range technology plans?**

The project will substantially improve the department's ability to provide adequate radio coverage for Southeast Alaska that has been a long range goal for many years.

**How does the project fit into the technology goals of the Knowles/Ulmer administration?**

This project will fit into the technology goals by maximizing public service through improving voice data systems and by optimizing government efficiencies. The timely response to calls for emergency assistance is a basic public need.

**Does the project affect the way in which other public agencies will conduct their business?**

In addition to the Department of Public Safety's emergency communications needs being addressed by this project, the Department of Health and Social Services, Emergency Medical Services Section will be provided with an enhanced ability to dispatch emergency medical assistance to those who need those services, and the Department of Environmental Conservation, Spill Prevention & Response will be better able to respond to oil spills and similar emergencies.

**What, if any, impacts are anticipated to ITG services?**

ITG will receive the \$92,198 to operate and maintain the system. ITG has been involved in the development of the project since its inception.

**What happens if the project is not approved?**

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Inadequate emergency communications will remain in Southeast Alaska.

**If funded this project will be coordinated with the following FY 2001 capital project requests:**

Department of Administration - Land Mobile Radio, \$1.2 million, with \$850.0 General Fund and \$350.0 Federal Receipts

Department of Health and Social Services - Emergency Medical Services Communications Systems  
Phase 2, \$241.6 General Fund

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Integrated Emergency Telecommunications Infrastructure \$75.0 General  
Fund

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Emergency Rescue Coordination Infrastructure, \$133.7 General Fund

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Emergency Wireless Communications, \$71.2 General Fund