

Alaska Marine Highway System: Prince William Sound Ferry (Ferry #1)

FY2002 Request: \$33,000,000
Reference No: 34590

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Valdez

Contact: Tom Brigham

House District: Delta, Prince William Sound (HD 35)

Contact Phone: (907)465-4070

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Appropriation: Surface Transportation Program

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Construct a fast vehicle ferry to service communities in Prince William Sound.

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$33,000,000						\$33,000,000
Total:	\$33,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,000,000

<input checked="" 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
20% = 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:

None.

Project Description/Justification:

The Prince William Sound Transportation Plan proposes that the region would be best served by two fast catamaran ferries. The first ferry would be home ported in Cordova and running to Whittier and Tatitlek would also be possible. The speed of this ferry would both reduce labor costs to a 12-hour day, and increase ridership because of the faster trip and routine schedule. Demand and cost modeling of this proposed system suggests it would cost less to operate and produce more revenue than the current M/V Bartlett, which could be taken out of service.

The second fast ferry, called for in 2006 or later, would run summer-only between Valdez and Whittier, making two round trips daily. It would primarily serve a tourism route, generating revenue that aids the rest of the system and providing a spare vessel to stand in for the other vessels during winter lay ups in both Prince William Sound and Southeast.

The tentative design parameters of these ferries are similar to the vessel under procurement for Sitka. It calls for 36 cars, 250 passengers, with routine speeds up to 32 knots. It would be capable of carrying up to 90 lineal feet of vans or heavy commercial traffic weighing up to 45 tons in total with a reduction in car capacity to 30 vehicles.