

Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking System Upgrades and Expansion

FY2017 Request: \$400,000
Reference No: AMD 48513

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety
Recipient: Marine Exchange of Alaska
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact: Catherine Reardon
Contact Phone: (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The purpose of this project is to operate, maintain, upgrade and expand the vessel tracking system provided by the non-profit Marine Exchange of Alaska that substantially contributes to safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. The vessel tracking system affects all of Alaska's coastal communities and is a valuable tool for state agencies and the United States Coast Guard. This project was not included in the original FY2017 Governor's capital budget due to the timing of its approval.

Funding:	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
1206 CPV	\$400,000						\$400,000
Tax							
Total:	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input 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 checked="" 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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2015 P43 L8 SB119 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P93 L10 SB18 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P93 L10 SB160 \$600,000
- Sec7 Ch5 SLA2011 P142 L22 SB46 \$600,000
- Sec16 Ch42 SLA2010 P1490 L20 SB230 \$600,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P97 L31 SB221 \$1,250,000
- Sec1 Ch30 SLA2007 P4 L22 SB53 \$200,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P18 L20 SB231 \$200,000
- Sec19 Ch61 SLA2001 P80 L10 SB29 \$646,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MEA) has built and currently maintains 130 Automatic Identification System (AIS) sites in Alaska. While there are gaps in vessel tracking coverage in some regions of Alaska, the most active maritime areas have comprehensive coverage. Efforts are now directed towards closing the gaps that remain and upgrading AIS equipment to the latest generation of radios that are more sensitive and have greater range.

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This project will continue the build out of Alaska's "Maritime Safety Net" system and will assist with operating, maintaining, upgrading, and expanding the vessel tracking network. The tracking network aids in the safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. This MEA project will allow expansion of the vessel tracking system's coverage and capabilities throughout Alaska.

The MEA is currently expanding the capabilities of the vessel tracking sites by adding weather sensors and radios that can receive and pass on digital selective calls from vessels in distress. Incorporating these added sensors will further enhance the safety of mariners operating in Alaska.

In addition to state agencies (Departments of Transportation and Public Facilities, Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fish and Game, Public Safety, and Environmental Conservation), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), coastal communities and mariners are also using the system to aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Arctic. The system has also been used to monitor Shell's exploration operations and validate compliance with environmental protection measures prescribed in permits. The information provided by the system is also used by the USCG and state to develop risk reduction measures for vessels transiting the Bering Strait and to monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

This funding will continue the progress towards closing gaps in coverage that exist in the Gulf of Alaska, Western Alaska and the Arctic. Capital funds enable purchase, installation, and maintenance of AIS sites throughout Alaska, and help to strengthen the vessel tracking network throughout the state.