



Municipality of Skagway

GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

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SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

February 5, 2021

Captain John F. Falvey, Jr., General Manager
Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway System
7559 N. Tongass Hwy.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov

RE: Comments on Summer Ferry Schedule 2021

Dear Captain Falvey,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2021 summer schedule for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

As you can well imagine, our community is hoping that the US/Canada border will open at some point this spring or early summer. If so, this schedule will create excellent opportunities for people from Alaska and the Yukon to travel on the highly popular Golden Circle Route. The new schedule's emphasis on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday arrivals and departures also gives residents of Southeast Alaska welcome opportunities to travel for weekend getaways.

With regard to the timing of vessels, mid-day arrivals and departures work best in Skagway because there are few or no facilities open late at night or in the early hours of the morning. If a ship is scheduled for such an arrival, we would hope the ferry terminal hours could be adjusted to accommodate passengers until the local restaurants and grocery store open.

Finally, we note that there are no plans to operate the new Alaska Class Ferries (ACF). Our concern is that the LeConte is an older ship. In the event it has mechanical difficulty, we would hope one of the ACFs could be made available to sail in Lynn Canal. A couple of winters ago, the Tazlina successfully operated in Lynn Canal within the 12-hour rule on an "Open Jaw" itinerary, or circular route. On this schedule, the Tazlina departed Auke Bay at 7:00 a.m. and sailed to Haines, then to Skagway, and directly back to Auke Bay, arriving at 7:00 p.m. This "Open Jaw" itinerary was possible during the winter given lower seasonal loads. Due to the pandemic, it is reasonable to assume vehicle and passenger ridership will be lower this summer than during a

*Mayor Cremata to Capt. Falvey, AMHS
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typical visitor season making it possible, if necessary, for an ACF to stand in for the LeConte should there be a problem.

We are attaching our list of local events. We do not yet know how many of these events will materialize, but we send our sincerest thanks to your staff for their efforts to give us the best schedule possible in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cremata", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Cremata, Mayor
mayor@skagway.org

Name of Event	Event date(s)	Location	Needed ferry arrival	Needed Ferry Departure
Mother's Day Celebration Weekend	May 7-9, 2021	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, May 7	Sunday, May 9
Skagway Days & Elks Memorial Day commemoration	May 28-31	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, May 28	Sunday, May 30 or Monday, May 31
Fran DeLisle Cancer Awareness Walkathon	Saturday, June 5, 2021	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, June 4	Sunday, June 6
Duff's Skagway Marathon	Saturday, June 12, 2021	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, June 11	Sunday, June 13
Summer Solstice Party/Father's Day Celebration Weekend	June 18-20, 2021	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, June 18	Sunday, June 20
Skagway International Softball Tournament & Independence Day Celebration	July 2-4	Skagway, Alaska	Friday, July 2	Sunday, July 4/Monday, July 5
North Words Writers Symposium	September 1-5	Skagway, Alaska	Wednesday, September 1	Sunday, September 5
Klondike Road Relay	September 10 & 11	Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon	Friday, September 10 – by 4 pm for 6 pm start	Sunday, September 12