

**Sitka - Commercial Passenger Vessel Facilities and Visitor Improvements**      **FY2011 Request: \$4,500,000**  
**Reference No: 50672**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation      **Project Type:** Construction  
**Category:** Development      **Recipient:** City and Borough of Sitka  
**Location:** Sitka      **Contact:** Jo Ellen Hanrahan  
**House District:** Sitka/Wrangell/Petersburg (HD 2)      **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2015

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Build a new visitor staging area, restrooms, walkway and other improvements to provide additional staging areas and improve traffic flow. This program contributes to the department's mission of promoting a healthy economy and strong communities by providing economic growth in the communities it serves.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2013</b>	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Total</b>
CPV Tax	\$4,500,000						\$4,500,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" 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	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

FY09 Supp - \$2,000,000 SLA 2009, Ch 15, Pg 45, Ln 27. - Gov \$2M Leg adds \$2.5M

**Project Description/Justification:**

There are no covered facilities for visitors coming ashore from the lightering facilities, the cruise ships' only access to the community. Passengers currently line up and wait for the shore boats to return them to their ships in the open, and in Sitka's rainforest environment, the weather is often inclement. The passengers need protection from the wind, rain and cold. Interpretive signing to acquaint visitors with Sitka is also greatly needed. Many elderly or infirm passengers need shelter from the weather and seating during since long waits for the lightering vessels that are not uncommon.

The combined project includes constructing a new 4,000 square foot visitor service facility, expanding and upgrading existing restroom facilities, and providing interpretive signage at the Sitka Lightering Facility. The second part of this project is to construct the pedestrian access walkway, included in the State DOTPF's STIP Needs List for many years, from the Lightering Facility to the existing sidewalk on the south side of the state highway, Harbor Drive. This major improvement will increase passenger safety and public access to visitors without having to cross the busy highway to get to Centennial Hall.

Centennial Hall is the primary public facility for cruise ship visitors in Sitka. It provides bus access and parking, restroom facilities, auditorium for performances, resting and viewing areas for visitors,

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visitor information services, museum and other historical, cultural and biological displays, and many other visitor attractions and amenities. It has not been upgraded for many years and has considerable unmet deferred maintenance and rehabilitation requirements.

This project will construct a new pedestrian walkway and seating/viewing areas between the Harrigan Centennial Hall and Kettleson Memorial Library, repave the Hall parking lot, and rehabilitate the flooring and interior finishes of the high tourist traffic areas of the Hall. The project is needed to correct visitor safety concerns and adequately provide basic visitor services for the hundreds of thousands of cruise vessel guests who visit Sitka.