

Alaska Marine Highway System - Alaska Class Ferry

FY2013 Request: \$60,000,000

Reference No: 48310

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Economic Assistance

Category: Transportation

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Mike Nuessl

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Alaska Class Ferry will be the next generation of ferries for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The design will incorporate state-of-the-art safety features and data gleaned from past projects. As replacements for certain existing vessels, these new vessels will be added to the fleet to operate on routes within Alaska's inside-waters. These new vessels will be an important step in the continuing goal of AMHS to maintain a safe, reliable and modern fleet of ferries. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.

Funding:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vessel Rep	\$60,000,000						\$60,000,000
Total:	\$60,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000,000

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- \$60,000,000 - Ch 3 FSSLA 2011 Sec 26(d) pg 82 ln 5-6 (fund transfer GF to VRF);
- \$60,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 37 pg 164 ln 3-6 (approp from VRF to DOT);
- \$60,000,000 - Ch 29 SLA 2008 Sec 36(c) pg 211 ln 29-30 (fund transfer GF to VRF).

Project Description/Justification:

At present, the AMHS fleet includes four ferries built before 1964. As these vessels age beyond 45 years of service, they become very costly to maintain. The age of the vessels is also a threat to the ability of AMHS to offer reliable sailing schedules. As an extreme example, on November 20, 2007, the four oldest Washington State Ferries were dramatically removed from service because of concerns with hull integrity. These Steel Electric Class ferries were ultimately retired from the Washington State Ferries (WSF) fleet because the cost to repair a single vessel was nearly one third the cost of a new vessel. Although the retired WSF vessels were nearly 80 years old, AMHS has recognized that it may face a similar situation. In late 2006, AMHS embarked on a project to study the requirements for designing a vessel operating in Lynn Canal. Working with other departments within DOT&PF, it has broadened the mission of the vessel to operate in all routes within inside-waters in order to support the needs of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan.