

2019

HOONAH COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

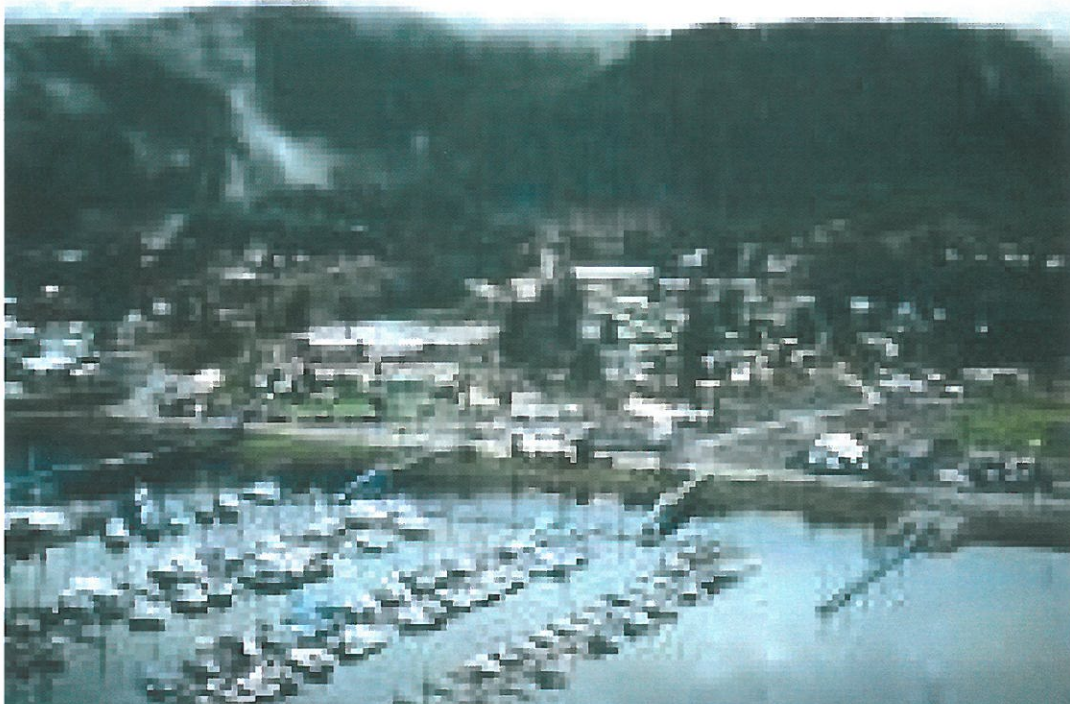


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COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

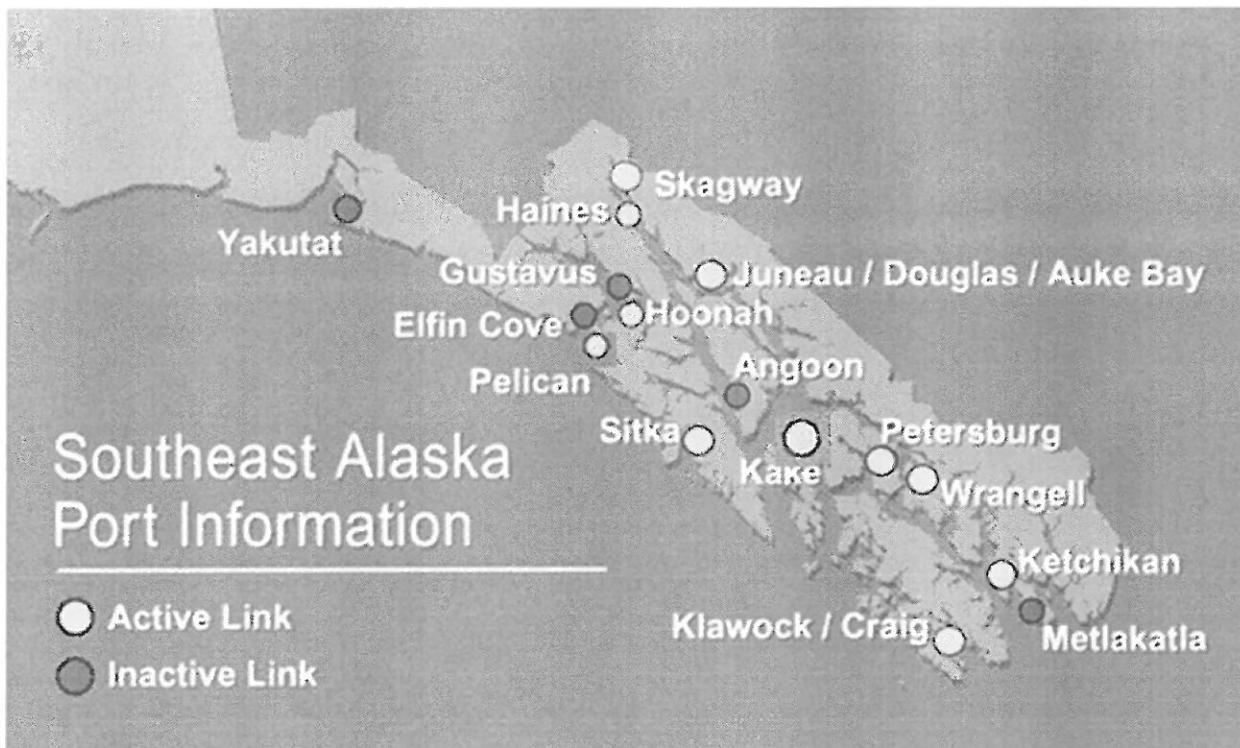
Location

The City of Hoonah is located on the northeastern side of Chichagof Island, which is the northernmost major island in the Alexander Archipelago on the Alaskan panhandle and the fifth largest island in the nation

It is the largest Tlingit village in Alaska. About 70% of its 850 residents are of Alaska Native heritage. Fishing is the mainstay of Hoonah's economy. Hoonah was incorporated as a first-class city under territorial law in 1946. It has a Mayor/City Council form of government.

Other communities nearby via boat or small plane include Pelican, Tenakee Springs, Gustavus, and Juneau.

Hoonah is just 40 air miles from Juneau therefore Juneau is the preferred destination for shopping, visiting and obtaining a variety of medical services.



With no connecting roadway to the mainland, the town is reached by air service providers and a state ferry system.

The State of Alaska Marine Highway serves Hoonah offering residents and visitors with a slower yet dependable and a less expensive option to travel to and from Hoonah to Juneau.

The Hoonah Airport offers service via scheduled small aircraft carriers, charter and private planes. Alaska Seaplanes offers 3-5 flights per day to and from Hoonah to Juneau. The flight schedule is dependent on the amount of daylight hours throughout the year. Connections can often be made in Juneau with either Alaska Airlines for regional or interstate travel or Alaska Seaplanes to go to other Southeast Alaska rural communities. Connections can also be made in Sitka with either Harris Air and Alaska Seaplanes for regional travel, and Alaska Airlines for regional and interstate travel.

Existing Local Human Services Transportation Systems

There is a widespread road system on northwest Chichagof Island and residents use private cars to access this road system.

The Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) has wheel chair accessible shuttle buses which are used to transport all Hoonah residents back and forth to the SEARHC clinic from designated pick up and drop off locations around town. Child and senior fares are \$1 per ride and adult fare is \$2 per ride. This fills a gap identified in Hoonah. The HIA service residents who are on Medicaid Waiver. Medicaid Waiver will not pay for rides to or from medical facilities so the passenger has to contribute for their ride when using the Hoonah Senior Center van to get to the SEARHC Clinic.

The Hoonah Senior Center operated by Southeast Senior Services, a division of Catholic Community Service provides handicapped accessible door to door transportation service to resident age 60 and older. This service fills a gap identified in Hoonah.

Icy Strait and Huna Totem have several buses used strictly for transporting tourists off the cruise ships docking in at Icy Strait Cannery dock.

Hometown Taxi serves resident of Hoonah. In the winter the wait is about 10 minutes. In the summer the wait can be as long as an hour or more. The Taxi driver does not come to the rider's door, they do not get out to assist the rider, and they do not carry

groceries to the rider's door. The rider pays for the ride and that is all they receive.

Facilities, Public Utilities, Schools and Health Care

Facilities- Human Services facilities include SEARHC health clinic and the Hoonah Senior Center.

The Hoonah Senior Center provides a transportation program to senior citizens age 60 and over. The transportation service is available during regular scheduled senior center hours. The wheel chair lift equipped vehicle provides the Hoonah seniors transportation to and from local businesses, the senior center lunch program and activities, community events, SEARHC medical clinic, cultural events and funerals, post office and local grocery and hardware store. The senior center transportation also provides resident senior citizens with transportation to and from private homes to visit one another.

Public Utilities - Water is derived from Gartina Creek, treated, and piped to all homes and facilities. A water treatment facility was completed in October 1998. Piped sewage is processed in a sewage treatment plant. Ninety-eight percent of homes are fully plumbed. The city provides garbage collection services once a week. Inside Passage Electrical Company operates three diesel-fueled generators in Hoonah. Electricity is provided by Inside Passage Electric Cooperative.

Schools - There are 2 schools located in the community, attended by 107 students.

Health Care - SEARHC Hoonah Medical Clinic is the single course of medical care in Hoonah. The clinic is a qualified Emergency Care Center. Emergency Services have a limited road system, marine, floatplane, helicopter and air access. Emergency service is provided by 911 Telephone Service, and a Hoonah volunteer EMS team that can be activated by calling (907-945-3631 or 945-3655).

COORDINATED SERVICE ELEMENT

Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Notice – The meeting Notice of Public meeting is attached to this Plan with dates of postings. The meeting was properly noticed with date, time and place. The Southeast Senior Services Coordinator personally delivered invitations to the Public Human Service Coordinated Transportation meeting to Hoonah Indian Association's transit manager, the City of Hoonah's mayor, and the Hometown Taxi Company.

Although none of these entities attended the meeting, these entities and other community members expressed regret at not being able to attend this meeting because they support the Senior Center services.

Meeting Agenda – The meeting Notice is attached to this Plan

Members of the Coordination Group - The Sign-in sheet is attached to this Plan

All attendees voted unanimously that the number 1 priority for Hoonah human service transportation is a replacement cutaway for the senior center. They expressed the desire to have the replacement bus be smaller to accommodate 8 passengers, be narrower to navigate the residential streets and senior citizen's driveways. They requested the replacement bus have at least one wheel-chair station but two is acceptable.

Inventory of Available Resources and Services

The State of Alaska owns and operates an airport consisting of a 2,997' long by 75' wide asphalt runway and a seaplane base that are both served by scheduled or chartered small aircraft from Juneau. A state ferry terminal and harbor/dock area are available for off-island transportation. The state ferry travels to a variety of destinations throughout Southeast Alaska and transports people, and vehicles/motorhomes/small boats. Lynden/Alaska Marine Lines provides barge service to and from Hoonah.

Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) recently commenced a shuttle bus service for Hoonah residents who needed a ride to the SEAHC Clinic. The new Clinic is located out of the downtown area – closer to the airport. The Clinic is not within walking distance for many due to their health. The shuttle is funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). HIA saw a gap in service in Hoonah and generously filled the gap. Hometown Taxi service operates at least one taxicab in Hoonah. The wait can be long and cannot always accommodate the residents' transportation needs. Senior residents in attendance at the public meeting commented that the taxi is either busy or broken. Their concern is oftentimes the wait is too long making it difficult to use the taxi service to meet their transportation needs after the senior center transportation has ended for the service day. However, the taxi service fills a human services transportation gap identified in Hoonah.

Icy Strait Corporation operates several wheel chair accessible tour buses, but only provides transportation to the tourists who are off the cruise ship(s) at their dock. Icy Strait buses transport tourists to local businesses, a site seeing ride down a logging road, and to the Icy Strait zipline terminal. In 2019-2020, Icy Bay will be building a second

dock to accommodate two cruise ships.

The City of Hoonah operates the emergency vehicle fleet. These include three fire trucks, and two ambulances. The City Police department has several police cars to protect and serve Hoonah. The Fish and Wildlife officer also operates a vehicle to ensure regulations are being followed.

The school district operates two school buses.

The Salvation Army has a non-lift equipped van and the Forest Service, City, Volunteer Fire Dept., and the SEARHC Clinic have access to ambulance(s). The schools all have publicly owned vehicles while the Cannery/Icy Strait Corporation has tourist vehicles and there is one Taxi company with one or two vehicles.

Assistance is limited to the churches with vans and a taxi and ambulance in an emergency.

Transportation on the Senior Services Van is limited to senior citizens or people with a disability that requires a lift equipped vehicle. The School buses are on occasion used for community use but that is rare.

Rides provided by the Hoonah Senior Center do not need advanced reservations in Hoonah unless a need arises that is outside the normal business hours of the Senior Center. Riders are asked to let the Senior Center know when they leave the community or do not need their usual ride. Riders in Hoonah do not need advanced reservations but are asked to obtain one for appointments or if they are using off-island transportation with a scheduled departure time to ensure the van is available. Riders are asked to let the Senior Center know if they would not like their usual ride or if they will be out of town.

Out of town senior guests call and request rides a day in advance if they can and know they are welcomed at the center and for rides on the van.

The Salvation Army has a non-lift equipped van and the Forest Service, City, Fire, the clinic ambulances, and school all have publicly owned vehicles. The Cannery/Icy Strait Corporation has tourist vehicles and there is one operable Taxi service with one and sometimes two vehicles.

The School buses are on occasion used for community use but that is rare.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Demographics -

Population of Service Area

Hoonah is in the Hoonah-Angoon Census area. According to the most recent census of 2010, the population in 2017 was estimated to be 776 Hoonah residents which is a increase from the 2010 census of 0.39% growth. 73.6% of the population are home owners. (Hoonah-Angoon Census Area Population. (2019-05-11). Retrieved 2019-06-30, from <http://worldpopulationreview.com/alaska-counties/hoonah-angoon-census-area>)

The federally-recognized Tribe located in Hoonah is the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA). According to the 2010 US Census, 442 of the 776 residents are American Indian and/or Alaska Native.

The Hoonah Human Service Transportation group members are the general public residents, senior citizens, business entities, transportation providers, health care providers, and City government official.

Household Income – According to the 2010 US Census:

Households Median income is \$60,625 and the Mean is \$72,963

Families Median income is \$68,750 with a mean of \$79,736

Married Families median income is \$78,958 with no mean

Non Families median income is \$40,625 with a mean of \$53,904

GAPS IN SERVICE

A gap exists with the Senior Center Transportation program because the van operates for 25 hours a week on Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM and has funding only for senior citizens age 60 and older. The Senior Center bus is scheduled to take senior citizens to the grocery store, post office, SEARHC Clinic, local businesses, and to and from the senior center meal during senior center hours. This means, seniors needing to access community services, are not able to sit and relax after lunch.

The Senior Transportation service also creates a gap for disabled residents under the age of 60 who do not need a wheel chair assisted door to door ride. This gap is filled by Hometown Taxi and in some cases by the HIA SEARH Clinic shuttle. for senior citizens and under 60 years of age. The

size of the current Cutaway creates a gap and the need for a smaller 4x4 that can operate safely and reliably in the winter snow and ice on the narrow hilly streets in Hoonah and be able to access each senior citizen's home.

Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) has recently implemented a human service bus system. HIA uses buses for the purpose of ensuring all residents have transportation from specified downtown area location (stops not posted but are listed in a pamphlet.) to the SEARHC Clinic. Their shuttle operates starts at 8 am and ends at 1pm. The gap that needs filling is human services transportation after 2 pm when the Hoonah Senior Center transportation ends. Hometown Taxi is there to fill that gap.

STRATEGIES

Addressing Needs and Gaps in Service

To address the need for a smaller Senior Center transportation Cutaway to continue to provide the door to door service to senior citizens, replacing the current Hoonah Senior Center bus with a replacement narrow-body four-wheel drive, studded tires, 8 passenger seats plus 2-wheel chair station with the possibility of drop-down chain system will address that identified need.

HIA identified a need that Hoonah residents who did not have personal cars, needed a ride to the SEARHC Clinic. They filled that gap

The gap created by both the Senior Center transportation which operated from 9 am to 2 pm, and the HIA clinic shuttle which operated from 8 am to 1 pm, is filled by the Hometown Taxi Company.

Strategies

The strategy to address the difficult hilly residential areas in Hoonah in the winter with the current full size bus is to make application to DOT in SFY20 for a 4-wheel drive, 8 seat van, with studded tires and possibly drop-down chain system.

In order to fund the 20% match for the replacement Senior Center Cutaway, the Coordination Group members discussed approaching Hoonah Indian Association, Sealaska Corp., Goldbelt Corporation, and the City Of Hoonah to raise the required 20% match for the replacement Senior Center Cutaway

and secure letters of commitment of funds from them.

ATTACHMENTS -

- A. Human Services Public Transportation Meeting sign-in sheet
- B. Public Meeting Notice
- C. Meeting Agenda
- D. Signed City of Hoonah Resolution adopting the 2019 Coordinated Plan (will be submitted under separate cover when received after the next council meeting).

UNANIMOUS vote

HOONAH HUMAN TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

PLACE: HOONAH SENIOR CENTER

DATE: MAY 16, 2019

TIME: 12:30 PM

ATTENDEE SIGN IN SHEET

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE No.

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957-6389

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945-3589

Melissa Showers

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523-6915

James Lindoff Jr

P/O Box Hoonah, AK

713-4334



Posted 5-1-19
Reposted 5-9-19
MM

PLEASE JOIN US

Hoonah's Coordinated Public Transit- Human Services Transportation Plan Meeting

<u>Date:</u>	Thursday, May 16, 2019
<u>Time:</u>	12:30 PM
<u>Location:</u>	Hoonah Senior Center
<u>Purpose:</u>	Annual Transportation Public Meeting to select Senior Service Transportation Priorities for FY20
<u>Contact Information:</u>	Tina Martin or Maxine Nakamura Hoonah Senior Center 610 Douglas Dr., Hoonah, Alaska 99829 Phone: 945-3350 Or: Sidney Williams (907) 321-2730 (Monday-Friday)

For more information or feasible accommodations, please contact Tina Martin or Maxine Nakamura, Site Manager, at (907) 945-3350

HOONAH HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION MEETING
HOONAH HUMAN TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING
PLACE: HOONAH SENIOR CENTER
DATE: MAY 16, 2019
TIME: 12:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Introduction – reason for meeting
2. What human services transportation does Hoonah already have?
3. What services does Hoonah not have that they need?
4. HIA – Explain Service Provided
5. Hometown Cab -Explain Service Provided.
6. Public Questions
7. Adjourn