



**ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES
COMMITTEE AGENDA**
September 29, 2025 at 12:10 PM

Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91849897300> or 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 918 4989 7300

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. *Gunalchéesh!*

C. ROLL CALL

Members Present In-Person: Chair Hughes-Skandijs; Ms. Hall, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Smith

Assembly Members Present: Neil Steininger

CBJ Staff Present: EPW Director Denise Koch; City Clerk Breckan Hendricks; EPW Administrative Officer Rose Evans; Tourism Director Alexandra Pierce; Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Lauren Verrelli; EPW Engineer Jason Hoffbauer; Capital Transit Operations Superintendent Richard Ross;; Lead Transit Operator Matt Carpenter; EPW Deputy Director Nate Rumsey

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - The agenda was approved.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. September 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes (draft)** - Approved with no changes.

F. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Marine Park

Alexandra Pierce stated that the memo was sent back to this committee to make a stronger recommendation, but the options for funding remain the same. They ask that it be sent to the Committee of the Whole tonight, so the Full Assembly can discuss it and get the project out to bid quickly. She noted that the options remain the same, and she added that regardless of what the body decides, there is adequate funding in the Seawalk CIP for Seawalk design. She added that the Full Assembly discussed possibly removing the vendor booths, but it was not included in the memo, as it would have to be sent back to design and they are a revenue producing item.

Neil Steininger expressed that he was hoping for further discussion about what this project can do for the community. He said when he thinks about Marine Park, how they are spending money on it, and what they get out of it as a community, the covering of the performing arts space brings back something they have been missing in the downtown space, which is a place for public art and public performances to happen outside of the rain. He felt those types of community services are vital to bring people back downtown, as well as showing the community that our tax money can go to things more oriented to locals than tourists.

Mr. Smith commented that there is a lot of public process on this, as they said public events downtown at the park were important, and the covered stage and seating help achieve that goal and community need. He felt it was a great project and was open to maintaining the \$3.5 million transfer.

Chair Hughes-Skandijs noted that when this was first sent back, staff found that they could reduce it down to a \$3 million transfer, so it has already been reduced.

Mr. Smith moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward to the Committee of the Whole Ordinance 2025-01bE and amend the amount from \$3.5 million to \$3 million.

The motion passed.

2. Transit - Reduced Schedule for Holidays

Director Koch stated that this was a continuation from an August meeting, where staff was asked to bring back information about holiday service, cost, and staffing implications. She said capital transit provides service on more holidays than larger communities like Anchorage and Fairbanks. She reminded the Committee that they added holiday service this past year on Memorial Day and Labor Day, which was funded with Marine Passenger fees. She noted that sometimes there are opportunities in the private sector for mechanics to make more money, but our benefits and lifestyle advantages make Capital Transit are part of what makes Capital Transit work attractive. However, asking them to work on holidays like Christmas could erode into our lifestyle advantage a little bit.

Mr. Kelly asked if it would be required for maintenance staff to be there on Christmas, or if the maintenance crew could do what was needed the day before or after Christmas.

Director Koch responded it depends on the level of service they would add, but it is always possible for buses to breakdown unexpectedly. The bare minimum to accommodate would be a Sunday level service and have the maintenance and mechanics on-call.

Superintendent Ross added that Sunday level service is the only level service they could provide without having maintenance on staff.

Mr. Smith inquired if they had any sense or data on the desired level of demand or what demand may be like on these holidays.

Director Koch answered that they have not done a formal survey on what sort of service riders want for holidays, but she said Labor Day and Memorial Day service was well used.

Superintendent Ross stated it is hard to put a feel on the holidays they are not servicing right now, but the Memorial Day and Labor Day service this year was pretty heavily used.

Mr. Carpenter added that he had not gotten a lot of feedback from the public about the holidays that are not currently provided, but on the existing holidays where they provide full-service currently, ridership on the express service is usually very light compared to a normal weekday. He guessed that ridership on most holidays is similar to a Saturday level.

Ms. Hall asked how many years they had been taking holidays on Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Mr. Carpenter expressed that he has been with Capital Transit since 2018, and they have always taken those days off and ended services at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Ms. Hall inquired if their understanding is that the public is not exactly asking for a change and staff is comfortable remaining where they are.

Mr. Carpenter answered yes.

Chair Hughes-Skandijis thanked Director Koch and Capital Transit staff for providing the options and memo, and she appreciated the deeper dive they did into Capital Transit. She felt they should not act on the information immediately, but it is useful moving forward, as it is important with some of the community goals and making sure Juneau works for everybody. She said there are policy decisions they can make around transit that take into consideration to make the capital city more useful and equitable for everybody; however, she feels there are still people who work on Christmas and Thanksgiving and people who need transportation on those days.

Mr. Kelly was impressed that Capital Transit is operating on more holidays than Anchorage and Fairbanks, but feedback from the public on this is missing. He expressed people may not have been asking for it because they did not know it was an option. He asked the rest of the committee if they were interested in getting more data to see if people were interested in riding on these holidays to see if this would be worth the expense.

Mr. Smith appreciated getting the information back and heard the concern on making the system work for everyone, but he worried what trying to fix it for these holidays would do to the overall system, as demand was expected to be significantly lower than Memorial

Day or Labor Day. He appreciated the suggestion to get a survey of the public's desire for this, but did not know how much he wanted staff to have to chase stuff around for this.

Ms. Hall commented that compared to the other major municipalities in the state, we are quite generous. She heard the concern about being equitable, but knowing that we have been doing it this way for so long, people have kind of developed work arounds, but they do not really know that without a survey. She noted that the staff for the cold weather shelter adapts and provides more service getting people to and from where they need go. She stated she would be far less concerned about adding some more Sunday level services if they did not already have a tight availability for their drivers and mechanics. Therefore, until they have better availability, she believed they did not need to get out ahead of themselves too much.

Mr. Kelly expressed the only other demographic he might be concerned about are the people who use the Capital access to get to medical services, but there are probably other options that may be available for them. He noted that if most of the Committee is satisfied with this, he would be satisfied too.

Chair Hughes-Skandijs voiced that maybe she and Mr. Kelly can talk about this more. She said transit remains an area of interest and maybe they can talk about how an annual survey is done or just chat with staff on their surveying process. She appreciated everyone's feedback and said they will keep this in mind when looking at the financial future as they go into their retreat after the ballot proposition results.

3. Legislative Capital Priorities

[The FY27 Legislative Capital Priorities materials will be added to the packet under Supplemental Materials prior to the Monday, September 29th, 2025 meeting.]

Director Koch explained that the legislative capital priorities process included capital projects that are over a million dollars, important to the community, and that they want to connect with state and federal funding sources. She said the process is really transparent and they get feedback on priority projects, since they send the letter out to almost 40 boards and commissions. She explained that they are asked to list two priority projects or even projects for removal, and after it goes through the boards and commissions, it goes to the Planning Commission, and at the end of the process, the Systemic Racism Review Committee also sees all the projects and feedback provided and kind of gets the last word in terms of non-assembly members. She said the list will then go to Assembly members for individual homework to rank the projects in priority order, and that data is taken and put into a ranking of the averages of the body, which then goes to a Committee of the Whole, and ultimately gets adopted at the Assembly and is requested formally through the state legislative process. She added that they also often have opportunities through the year to provide this information to the federal congressional delegation. Director Koch mentioned that she tried really hard this year to avoid having any of this remotely close to Christmas

or Thanksgiving, so the homework will be in November, prior to Thanksgiving. She asked the Committee if they are okay with this process.

Mr. Smith asked if staff or the manager recommend removal of any of the list's projects.

Director Koch responded that it is really on the boards and commissions to make recommendations for removal. She stated that it was brought up last year if they should have a more constrained list, and some of the feedback was that it does not hurt to have a longer list, so they have not made any recommendations to remove items other than projects that were completed, even though as the director, she liked the idea of removal of projects and making the list a little tighter.

Mr. Smith wondered if before they rank if there should be a discussion on if they should remove any of the projects.

Ms. Hall inquired if there was any strategic discussion among staff as to whether some projects should come off the list, especially with the changes at the federal level and uncertainty in any of the projects that might be elevated.

Director Koch answered there are definitely areas in which they anticipate there will be fewer opportunities for federal grant dollars, but she could not say that for certain. For example, the Lemon Creek Multimodal Path has a low likelihood of getting federal grant dollars for construction and it would be expensive, and is not the type of project that this administration seemed to prioritize.

The Committee agreed with the process.

G. PWFC 2025 ASSEMBLY GOALS

1. PWFC Milestones

Director Koch voiced that the GLOF memo will be at the Committee of the Whole tonight and be addressed.

H. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

1. September 3, 2025 to September 19, 2025

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

1. November 3, 2025 at 12:10 PM, Zoom & Assembly Chambers

J. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

1. FY2027 Legislative Capital Priorities — DRAFT

K. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.