



VISITOR INDUSTRY TASK FORCE 2.0 (VITF) AGENDA

March 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/83826098583> or call 1 (669) 444-9171 Webinar ID: 838 2609 8583

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2026-02-19 VITF Minutes - Draft

E. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Flightseeing Discussion and Policy Options

A) Presentation

B) Discussion

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

G. NEXT MEETING DATE - MARCH 19, 2026 AT 5:30PM

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

I. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: contact the Clerk's Office (907)586-5278 or city.clerk@juneau.gov at least 36 hours prior to a meeting, to request ADA arrangements.



VITF 2.0 – MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Assembly Chambers & Zoom

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/83826098583> or call 1 (669) 444-9171 Webinar ID: 838 2609 8583

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair Adkison

B. ROLL CALL

Task Force Members Present: Chair Ella Adkison; Kirby Day; Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs; Matt Catterson (Zoom); Ren Scott; Jeremy Timothy, Sarah Lowell

Task Force Members Absent: Meilani Schijvens

Staff Members Present: Alexandra Pierce, Visitor Industry Director; Phil Huebschen, Engagement Specialist

Additional Speakers Present: Susan Bell, Huna Totem; Brett Wells, Department of Transportation

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved

E. AGENDA TOPICS

a. Downtown Congestion

i) Presentation

Information and current concerns regarding downtown pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic, and congestion was provided by Director Pierce, Susan bell, and Brett Wells.

ii) Discussion

General discussion by Task Force Members followed. No formal action was taken.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were no additional comments or questions.

G. MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES/NEXT MEETING DATE

VITF 2.0 – MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Assembly Chambers & Zoom

Next meeting date – March 12, 2026 at 5:30pm.

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

There was no discussion of supplemental materials.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm

TO: City and Borough of Juneau Visitor Industry Task Force

FROM: Alexandra Pierce, Visitor Industry Director

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: March 12 and March 19 Meetings – Flightseeing Discussion and Policy Options

This memo provides an overview of the structure and objectives for our upcoming meetings on March 12 and March 19 regarding flightseeing activity in Juneau.

March 12: Current Landscape and Historical Context

The March 12 meeting will feature an open discussion with an expert panel focused on the current flightseeing landscape in Juneau and how we arrived at the present framework. CBJ did a great deal of work on flightseeing in the late 1990s and early 2000s, including commissioning a [noise assessment](#) and a study evaluating [remote heliports](#). These efforts directly led to the creation of the [TBMP program](#) (flightseeing guidelines, p. 10) and the [Letter of Agreement](#) that flightseeing companies currently operate under.

The panel will provide both a contemporary and historical perspective on:

- The role of flightseeing in the Juneau tourism market
- Current flightseeing practices
- The role of voluntary operating agreements
- Land management and permitting by the U.S. Forest Service within the Tongass National Forest
- Past and current policy actions and planning efforts by the City and Borough of Juneau

The purpose of this session is to have an open discussion. It is intended to ensure Task Force members have a shared understanding of the regulatory environment, the operational realities of flightseeing, and the historical decisions that shape current conditions. This discussion will help frame the policy conversation during the following VITF meeting on March 19.

Panelists will include:

Laura Buchheit, Deputy District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, will speak to how USFS permitting drives the Juneau flightseeing market

Eric Main and Tristan Buhler, Base Manager and Lead Pilot, Temsco Helicopters, will speak to the operational realities of helicopter flightseeing

Donna Pierce, City and Borough of Juneau, Ms. Pierce was Deputy City Manager during CBJ's most intensive work on flightseeing and was the driving force behind CBJ's previous plans and studies as well as the existing framework. She has been asked to provide a historical perspective of how we got here.

Task force members Kirby Day and Sarah Lowell will also be asked to lend their historical and operational expertise.

March 19: Policy Options and Legal Framework

The March 19 meeting will focus on policy options and recommendations for the Task Force's consideration. Representatives from the CBJ Law Department, the Juneau International Airport, and the U.S. Forest Service will be available to answer regulatory questions.

This session will include:

- A review of potential regulatory and non-regulatory approaches
- Discussion of Juneau's legal and jurisdictional authorities
- Input from the City and Borough of Juneau Law Department
- Consideration of operational and airport-related authorities

In addition, we will review helicopter regulatory efforts and policy approaches in other jurisdictions, including:

- [Haines, Alaska's heliskiing ordinances](#)
- Hawaii's state level flightseeing efforts (relevant links below)
 - [Hawaii Legislation](#)
 - [Hawaii DOT Helicopter Noise Roundtable](#)
 - [FAA Position](#)

This comparative discussion will help the Task Force evaluate what tools may or may not be available to Juneau, and what lessons can be learned from other communities managing similar visitor industry pressures.