



ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

December 1, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers/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 Ella Adkison; Neil Steininger; Nano Brooks

Members Present Online: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

CBJ Staff Present: EPW Director Denise Koch; EPW Deputy Director Nate Rumsey; Environmental Project Specialist Diana Robinson; RecycleWorks Operations Manager Stuart Ashton; Planning Commissioner Liaison David Epstein; Acting Transit Superintendent Matt Carpenter; City Manager Katie Koester

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - The agenda was approved.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes - Approved with no changes.

F. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Solid Waste Presentation

Director Koch gave a presentation on solid waste. She stated that hauling and disposal are completely in private hands and not owned or managed by CBJ, but CBJ does operate the RecycleWorks programs. She talked about the ways CBJ can gain control of Juneau's waste stream, which include owning the waste hauling utility certificate or owning and controlling the solid waste disposal facility, and she gave some examples of what communities can do when they have control. She explained that the Capital Disposal Landfill will fill up at some point, and they believe it will be in about seven years. Director

Koch shared that they have worked with a contractor to look at capital cost for different disposal options, including a landfill, thermal technology, or shipping waste for someone else to get rid of. However, none of those options can be done without a transfer station. She stated the capital study is done, but they are also working with a consultant on an operational cost study.

Diana Robinson discussed the capital study, where they came up with the three scenarios and asked their consultant to rank them in terms of financial and logistical feasibility, which could change depending on the operational cost study. The scenario feasibility ranking right now is: 1) to collect all waste and transport it offsite to a different landfill; 2) constructing a new landfill second; and 3) constructing a waste to energy facility last. She added that constructing a waste to energy facility is last due to not having enough waste to make it economically viable. They expect the operational cost study completion in January.

Mr. Epstein asked if they would gain any traction by asking surrounding communities if they want to form a trash hauling consortium to achieve the volume they need to make the waste facility economically feasible.

Director Koch responded that there are regional conversations happening about solid waste that they are aware of. She said that if CBJ had more control of our own waste, that could allow CBJ to be more of a regional solution, but those are policy decisions that would need to come before the Assembly.

Ms. Robinson added they are pretty involved with a project that the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) is currently undertaking by looking at regional waste solutions. She noted that the rest of southeast Alaska combined is significantly less than 30,000 tons, so even with all their forces combined, it does not get them up to the 60,000 they need to be financially viable to have a waste to energy facility. She said there are smaller technologies that could be talked about farther down the line, but their main focus is to look for the best way to dispose of the most trash in the shortest amount of time.

Mayor Weldon asked if there was a scenario where they could use a combination of a transfer station and a smaller waste to energy.

Director Koch answered there are possibilities, but it is unlikely they would handle the majority of the waste stream, as they would probably have to do some level of waste segregation, and select a particular stream of waste that is efficient to use an incinerator.

Ms. Robinson noted there are some permitting exemptions they may be able to qualify for for the smaller incinerators, but to stay with that exemption it's a pretty low amount of waste they would be able to incinerate.

Mayor Weldon asked what certain types of waste are they referring to.

Ms. Robinson answered any waste that is combustible. She stated there is a lot of construction and demolition waste that could be combustible, but could have the option of a construction demolition waste monofill with lower permitting requirements.

Mr. Brooks asked if there had been any discussion about onsite processing or recycling to have a product at the end that they could sell from the city out instead of having it shipped down south.

Director Koch responded that if Juneau decided they wanted to have control over the waste, that would make a lot of other things possible in terms of recycling or different streams of waste they want to treat in different ways. She expressed that many constituents over the years have asked if what they recycle is being recycled, and it is.

Chair Adkison inquired if they chose shipping out waste if they could incinerate or build a landfill later down the road.

Director Koch responded that it is possible to phase a transfer station where they could ship out waste in the short term and change the disposal option further down the road.

Mayor Weldon asked if they could get biowaste down to ash with waste to energy and if they could make a big difference in the hauling it out.

Ms. Robinson answered that they would still need to ship any of the bottom ash out to a landfill that is appropriately permitted for it.

Mr. Brooks expressed that with all the technology available that could potentially remove all the PFAS, if there a material that can be used in things like backfill or concrete additive.

Director Koch answered that for the biosolids side where they are talking about a pyrolysis unit, they are excitedly pursuing the pyrolysis unit, which they hope will create carbon black and burn at a high enough temperature to destroy the PFAS.

Chair Adkison inquired what the timeline would be if they gave them full license to go with the transfer station for shipping out their trash.

Director Koch guessed it would be a 4 to 5 year timeline.

Mr. Steininger asked when they would have more information on estimated operating costs for the different options.

Director Koch responded that they are aiming for January.

2. Transit Overview

Director Koch stated that their core routes, including the 1, 3, and 4, provide 75% of the rides. She said 23% is on the Route 8 and 2% on other commuter and connector routes. She talked about the factors that go into their decisions on which routes are to be suspended during resource shortages.

Chair Adkison shared she has had people come up to her and tell that the North Douglas Route should be reinstated. She asked if they are looking at cutting more routes, are there particular ones that they have in mind that should go or would it be a new evaluation.

Matt Carpenter answered that they would re-evaluate. He said they have a lot of new data with the new Gillig electric buses, including automatic passenger counters. He said there are routes that they know have fairly low ridership and would probably be the ones they would look to cut first after discussion and review of the data.

Mr. Brooks inquired if there had been any talk about slightly adjusting each of the main routes to encompass more of the lower ridership areas to reduce the amount of routes required but not leaving anyone without service.

Director Koch responded that they did a survey several years ago that had a specific outreach on bus riders and asked people if they wanted reliable and fast core service or investment in commuter routes more and the riders overwhelmingly said reliable and fast core service was their primary interest. She stated that exercise assumed a constant level of resources with buses and staff, so they would be talking about tradeoffs.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs commented that she was not surprised that people that ride bus would pick fast service for their routes they ride over spreading out resources.

Mayor Weldon asked if they have looked at staying with their core services but contracting out for the smaller and less ridership services.

Director Koch answered that they have not evaluated that in the last few years, but it is something they could look into.

Chair Adkison inquired where they are at today with staffing, CDL issues, and if buses are running well.

Director Koch stated that most of their buses are running well. Said they are not fully staffed on drivers and mechanics still, but they are in a better place with that than they were. She said that passenger counts took a big hit during COVID, and it has taken several years to climb back up, but they are pretty close to pre-COVID levels.

3. Outer Drive

Director Koch discussed the Outer Drive Project, which was a major improvement from 1970s era wastewater infrastructure, stating that the project has been completed.

4. Capital Improvement Projects Funds Review (One Liner)

Director Koch shared that they listed out some of the different funding sources in the memo, and the restrictions that come along with that.

Ms. Koester added that the One Liner list was requested in the context of their budget shortfall for the current and next fiscal year to look at existing and future capital projects. She shared how the current allocation of sales tax dollars will be a hit of a little over \$4.5 million to their CIP budget due to the sales tax. She added that the One Liner is a snapshot in time to make sure they have all the information as they enter into budget conversations.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs commented that the list was very helpful to her in terms of the retreat and larger budget discussions. She asked what considerations are in the column talking about the potential funds available for reallocation and if there was anything changing the numbers between funds available and funds available for reallocation.

Ms. Koch responded there are some projects that have a larger number and a smaller number in the potential funds available for reallocation, and part of this is that some are state funds or grants dedicated for a particular purpose, and they cannot just move those funds around to a different project. Those funding sources are not available for reallocation.

Chair Adkison asked if they had federal grant money with a city match, would they hollow it out and have the city match in the funds available for reallocation, or keep them with the funds available.

Director Koch believed they had the local match dollars in the funds available category.

Mr. Brooks inquired if, of the \$23 million available, the \$8 million potential for reallocation in public safety communications infrastructure was the \$8 million contributed through the General Fund or part of the voter approved bonds.

Ms. Koester answered that in one of last year's proposed budgets, there was a \$6 million General Fund allocation to the communication system, it was included in 1% sales tax projects, and there is a bond to cover the remainder of that, so the \$8.3 is the appropriations exclusive of the bond funds.

Ms. Brooks asked if there had been any progress or update on a quote for those communications since the approval of that bond.

Director Koch responded that the client of the project was the Juneau Police Department and Engineering and Public Works is the project manager, and they are working with a vendor. She said there had been a lot of back and forth between them to move the project along.

G. PWFC 2025 ASSEMBLY GOALS

1. PWFC Milestones

H. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

1. October 30, 2025 to November 21, 2025

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

1. January 26, 2026 at 12:00 PM, Zoom & Assembly Chambers

J. 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.