

Marine Passenger Fee Proposal – Public Wireless Internet in the Marine Park Pavilion

Each summer day, hundreds of cruise ship passengers and crew visit the downtown public library on the docks to access the internet. It is not uncommon to see 150 active connections at any point during the day, which is a significant increase over the typical 20-50 active connections during the remainder of the year. The library has received comments from residents with concerns about their ability to use the library during the summer due to the high number of passengers and crew in the facility.

We believe that if we can more readily meet the connectivity needs of the passengers and crew before they get to the library, we can mitigate the congestion challenge in the library. Last summer, we experimented with placing a wireless access point in the elevator lobby of the Marine Parking Garage. This was successful during sunny weather, but as soon as it rained, the lobby became too congested with people to fulfill its purpose as a pass-through space.

This proposal will allow us to place a wireless access point in the Marine Park pavilion. We will provide the same level of free wireless internet service in this area that we do in the library, and advertise as such. We will be able to turn the service off when other better/higher uses of the space (e.g. events) are occurring, if necessary. We also intend to continue to explore other potential areas in the downtown core to provide this service.

Funding request:

\$3500 – Networking and wireless equipment, non-recurring

\$2000 – Internet access monthly fees, summer months only