

CBJ DOCKS AND HARBORS BOARD  
CIP / PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA  
For Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

I. Call to Order.

Michael Williams called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

II. Roll.

The following members were in attendance: Greg Busch, Eric Kueffner, David Logan, Budd Simpson, Tom Donek, Scott Spickler, and Michael Williams.

Also in attendance were: Gary Gillette – Port Engineer, Carl Uchytel – Port Director and Harold Moeser – Engineer Architect I.

III. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED

The motion passed with unanimous consent.

IV. Public Participation.  
None.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.

Hearing no objection, the CIP meeting minutes for March 21, 2013 were approved as presented.

VI. Items for Action.

1. North Douglas Launch Ramp Master Plan.

Gary Gillette said the Douglas Launch Ramp has parking congestion and some parts of the ramp require improvements. PND Engineers provided the Harbors with a plan that includes a separate ramp for kayakers. This would be a big project and requires a lot of fill. There is a desire to improve the Douglas Harbor launch ramp, but this is a matter of timing and funding. The plan would also require the Harbors to acquire some State land to expand. The plan also requires a realignment of sections of the Douglas Highway, which would require cooperation from other agencies. A less extensive plan, with immediate improvements, would make more sense.

Mr. Moeser said the Douglas Harbor Launch Ramp parking is an issue. To make the area more efficient there will need to be an area where the trucks

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pulling trailers can turn around. Parking space needs to be clearly marked and more lighting.

Mr. Moeser presented three plans:

Plan 1 includes:

- Optimizing the current area without requiring fill.
- Clearly marked parking spaces.
- Picnic tables.

Plan 2 includes:

- Optimizing the current area which would require some fill.
- Turnabouts.

Plan 3:

- Vehicles are able to drive in and back down straight.
- Requires more area.

Committee Questions

Mr. Simpson asked if there is another site along North Douglas Highway, which would not require filling, to build a Launch Ramp.

Mr. Donek said there are not better sites.

Mr. Busch asked Mr. Gillette what action he wants to see taken.

Mr. Gillette said that the Harbor staff is trying to address some of the public concerns regarding the North Douglas Harbor Launch Ramp. The Harbor staff is looking for direction as to how much investment should be put into the North Douglas Harbor Launch Ramp Project.

Public Discussion

Mr. Gary Baxter, Douglas, AK

He said that the North Douglas Harbor Launch Ramp Parking Lot has an issue with bottle necking. Docks and Harbors will need to acquire permits to fill and expand the area. Kayakers walking in the blind-spots of trucks with trailer are creating a dangerous situation. The area receives a lot of use. I suggest putting a kayak launch ramp on the south end to help prevent people from being hit by a truck with a trailer. The kayakers are getting behind the boats as the boats are

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being launched. If nothing is done, I foresee someone getting hurt and this could create a lawsuit.

Mr. Mike Peterson, Douglas, AK

He said I support any improvements to the North Douglas Harbor Launch Ramp. The area has potential for more growth. I would like to see a double launch ramp, one solely for kayaks, to help keep the kayakers away from the congestion.

Mr. Scott Spickler, Juneau, AK,

He said the low cost ideas for improvement are appreciated. This is an issue of safety as I have witnessed first-hand. The current situation is an accident waiting to happen. A launch ramp further north, at one of the turn offs, would take care of this concern. Look into a land swap for the State land across the street to help expand the parking. Also, there is a need for lighting and security cameras. People have had their car windows broken and there is an issue with vandalism in the North Douglas Launch Ramp Parking Lot. Not only would security cameras help to prevent vandalism and theft, but the Harbor Staff could use the cameras in the winter months to see if snow removal is necessary.

Mr. Kueffner asked Mr. Spickler if lighting would turn the area into more of an urban area.

Mr. Spickler said there are lights that would work.

Committee Discussion and Action

Mr. Williams said the funds to update the North Douglas Launch Ramp were redirected towards improving Amalga Harbor. The North Douglas Launch Ramp is being used more and will require improvement. The Harbor Staff will search for a grant to fund the North Douglas Launch Ramp improvements. Gary Gillette will investigate the use of the State land across the street from the North Douglas Launch Ramp and reorganizing the current parking situation to provide more parking and safety. There is a need for funding.

Mr. Simpson asked Mr. Gillette to investigate plans for a kayak launch ramp.

Mr. Uchytel said it is too late to take the kayakers launch permits away this year. Taking the launch permits away from kayakers should be considered in October 2014 for future years. Also, if we improve circulation, we lose parking. What is the priority? The Harbors can afford what we prioritize. Where is this in order of priority?

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Mr. Kueffner said the North Douglas Launch Ramp is not a priority to me. Building a breakwater is not a cost effective option. The Harbors have the ability to impose restrictions on the kayaker's use of the launch permits. Find kayakers a separate launching site is not a concern. Modifying the kayaker's use of the launch ramp would be a lot easier than funding a new launch site.

Mr. Donek said the current situation is not an easy fix. The current projects are a priority and need to be completed prior to starting a new project. Previously the Harbors encountered opposition to the plan to update the North Douglas Launch Ramp. The other reason the North Douglas Launch Ramp improvements did not occur was because it's not cost effective. The site requires a lot of fill and would cost millions of dollars to complete. This is also why the money went to Amalga Harbor instead of the North Douglas Launch Ramp. The North Douglas Launch Ramp is not a priority.

Mr. Simpson said there are a lot of small, incremental, low cost improvements that can be made to help manage the site. For example, painting parking lanes and having the kayakers launch at a separate site would not cost much and would improve the use of the North Douglas Launch Ramp. The kayak trailer interaction is an issue that needs to be addressed and managed.

Mr. Busch said the North Douglas Launch Ramp project is a low priority but should be considered after the current projects are finished. There are options to make the area safer, for example, giving the kayakers more parameters. The operations committee will address the management of the kayaker trailer interaction for the current season instead of waiting for the permitting in October.

Mr. Uchtyl said the kayakers are more likely to attend meetings in October and not in the summer months.

Mr. Busch said the committee can be flexible, so as to include the right demographics, when scheduling the meeting to discuss the kayakers launch ramp permit use. Alternatively, the Harbor Staff might find a solution outside of a scheduled committee meeting.

Mr. Logan asked what can be done with the lighting at the North Douglas Launch Ramp.

Mr. Williams said the Harbor Staff will consider options regarding: lighting, separation of kayakers and trucks with trailers, and organization of the North Douglas Parking Lot to facilitate safer and easier parking.

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VII. Items for Information/Discussion.

1. Douglas Harbor Sign

Mr. Gillette said Mike Pusich's family is paying for the sign to be placed in Douglas Harbor. There will be no cost to the Harbors. The sign is consistent with the design of other signs in the area. The sign is to be installed at the head of the Douglas Harbor Ramp and the unveiling is planned for July 2013.

2. Tiger Grant V.

Mr. Uchytel said the Tiger V Grant is provided by the United States Department of Transportation. There are seven hundred million dollars available with an estimate of five percent for applicant success rate. There are two tiers to the Tiger V. The first tier is for an urban setting and requires a twelve million dollar project. The second tier is for a rural setting and requires a one million dollar project with no matching requirement. The grant requires the project to be transportation related, work with partnerships and ready to start in June of 2014. The under-bridge marine services building project meets the requirements for the Tiger V Grant. The under-bridge marine service building is not a high priority project, but the project is the best option to qualify for the Tiger V Grant. Docks & Harbors is hiring Greg Fisk to write the grant. He was successful in writing the Tiger I Grant.

Mr. Williams said a joint venture for building under the bridge is a good plan and would bring positive attention to the sea-walk park.

Mr. Kueffner said he supports this plan and encourages the Harbor Staff to achieve what they can in the short time allotted.

Mr. Williams asked what Mr. Fisk will be paid for writing the application for the Tiger V Grant.

Mr. Uchytel said no more than five thousand dollars.

Mr. Simpson asked if this is the previously prepared plan for under the bridge or is this plan a new project.

Mr. Uchytel said the project has not been drafted yet, but it will be for the marine services building.

Mr. Simpson asked if the Assembly approved the project for under the bridge.

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Mr. Uchytel said the Assembly has approved the location of the whale and the area around the whale will be used as the Docks and Harbors deems appropriate.

VIII. Member and Staff Reports.

Mr. Williams said he will no longer be the Chair of the CIP Committee after June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The next meeting will be his last and he appreciates working with all of the board members.

IX. Committee Administrative Matters.

Next Meeting: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

X. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.