

Visitor Industry Comments 1/2020

I have lived in Juneau since 1972—before anything but casual tourism. I have watched this industry grow and prosper but not always in parallel with the well-being of the community. Below are my personal comments for the Visitor Industry Task Force to consider. They are my personal comments and not those of any group to which I may belong.

1. CBJ should **adopt goals** related to the visitor industry , for example, net zero emissions by X date, that are consistent with the JRES already adopted . The industry should be part of our goals for 80% carbon free by 2045.
2. **Air quality:** Just as the Valley is considered an “airshed”, CBJ should request DEC to declare the harbor area downtown as an airshed so that pollution is not about one smoke stack but about over all air quality.
3. Downtown has a **traffic problem**, especially in summer. Take a long-term view: summer bus traffic must be replaced by a more energy efficient mode of mass transit., a replacement that also benefits residents. Meanwhile, CBJ should set a target date by which all diesel buses will be eliminated and work with MGVC to have only non-fossil fuel buses by that target date.
4. CBJ should use the power of incentives for spots for buses (e.g., prime locations for electric buses) and disincentives to advance CBJ goals.
5. We have talked about a downtown circulator for some time. Former mayor Greg Fisk saw a circulator in summer (pass to be sold on board) that could help ease pedestrian traffic and give access to remotely locations, including bus locations, and in this way subsidize winter use by residents.
6. Ban all idling of bus engines. Period.

7. CBJ should specify a “zero emissions” rule for **cruise ships**. Ships should be required to plug into shoreside power. No ships should be allowed at anchor where they cannot plug into shoreside power. Even so, there will be time at start and end of the stay where engines are powering up and down, for this, only the highest quality fuel should be used.
8. Closed loop scrubbers should be used and no dumping of this or other waste within CBJ boundaries.
9. Cruise lines should coordinate a schedule so that Juneau gets one day without cruise ships, as it used to be.
10. If more docks are needed they should be at locations other than downtown, for example at Auke Bay or Douglas (excellent place for small cruise ships) so as not to create even more downtown congestion.

11. Enact a “vacancy fee” for any store and/or building that is **not occupied** and in use all year round. Fee based on fact that vacant buildings are a public nuisance. This will be a step toward ending the winter desert.

12. No **Eaglecrest development** should be permitted that infringes on locals’ use of the area. All transport by bus should be in smaller electric buses. The North Douglas Hwy is already impacted by large bus traffic.
.
13. **Tax all sales** made on cruise ships while they are in CBJ boundaries.

14. For the sake of both visitors and residents, we must do something about our **landfill** and its terrible odor which comes largely from methane from the decomposition of organic material. All I have to offer are some suggestions. CBJ could require that all organic material be diverted into composting or CBJ partners with others to build a trash to energy plant or pass an ordinance requiring that all methane emissions must be used instead of vented or flared. As it is, the situation is disgraceful!

15.CBJ should take the lead in establishing a **regional organization** that seeks to have a standard set of conditions for cruise travel in the Pacific Northwest, from Seattle through British Columbia and including all the ports of call. This will make industry compliance easier and keep industry pitting one port against another.

Submitted by,
Margo Waring
11380 N. Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801