

From: [Larri Spengler](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: comments for tourism task force
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EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear CBJ Visitor Industry Task Force —

I appreciate you working to assist Juneau in keeping its amazing atmosphere while entertaining visitors. I don't know anyone who wants tourism in Juneau to go away, but I know many, many people who want it to be here in a more manageable and managed form.

Further, if we don't somehow get the madness of certain times and days downtown or at the glacier (for example) under control, we will be a less and less attractive destination to visitors.

With that in mind, my requests are:

1. Work out a system that distributes the cruise ship visitor numbers evenly throughout the day and the week, instead of having them bunched up are particular times and days. This could be paired with a cruise ship free weekend day.
2. In combination with Juneau's first responders, figure out a way to enable emergency vehicles to pass through the tight traffic bottleneck of South Franklin so that ambulances, police cars, and fire trucks can get through at something other than a crawl. Perhaps this could involve the crossing guards being linked to the first responder dispatch network via walkie talkie, so that they can be instructed to let traffic flow and hold up the pedestrians when need be.
3. Ensure the industry helps pay its fair share for use of and impacts on our wonderful town: in addition to the head tax, invoke a sales tax on all activities that occur within our borough (heli, hiking, biking and tram tours, etc), and maybe a bit higher summer sales tax and a bit lower winter sales tax.
4. Figure out a way to ensure that the cruise ships go more slowly all the way down Gastineau Channel; currently, the wake from some of the passing ships greatly impacts small and medium-sized boats along that area — not only skiffs out fishing, but even to the extent of overturning boats moored

along the Thane shore — and several years ago dumping an elderly Thane man out of his skiff in front of his home, who was only rescued because a neighbor happened to see him.

5. Consider moving the pedicabs away from the South Franklin bottleneck, maybe by having them use the seawalk between the Princess dock and Marine Park.
6. Extend the railing, chains, and plant-blockages all along the congested corridor, to funnel visitors to the crosswalks instead of making it easy for them to wander into the street just anywhere.
7. Continue the process of electrifying the cruise ship docks, to improve downtown air quality.
8. Keep merchandise and hawkers off the sidewalks on South Franklin.
9. Expand the crossing guard program to make sure that each crosswalk has a guard, and make sure that the crossing guards (who are very helpful to the congestion overall) have training and are consistent in the way they attend the crosswalks.
10. Determine if a circulator system taking visitors somewhere other than the waterfront to board the vehicles for their specific outings would help overall congestion.
11. Impose an overall cap on daily cruise ship passenger in Juneau, by taking into account the different sizes and capacities of the different ships.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

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