

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

News From The House Majority

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House Finance Committee Leaders Tour Southeast Infrastructure Needs

(JUNEAU) – Representatives Bill Williams (R-Saxman) and Representative John Harris (R-Valdez), Co-Chairs of the House Finance Committee announced today that they and other Committee members will visit several southeast Alaskan communities to look at local capital improvement needs. Both will be in Sitka on Wednesday for a first-hand look at the deferred maintenance needs of the Pioneers' Home and the Mount Edgecumbe High School renovation project.

On Thursday, Representative Williams plans to visit the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park and other area projects.

On Friday, Representative Kevin Meyer (R-Anchorage), Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee, will join Representative Williams in Ketchikan. They will tour the Ketchikan Shipyard and the Ward Cove Industrial Park. The Alaska State Troopers (AST) and Ketchikan Gateway Borough are negotiating a building purchase at Ward Cove that would serve as AST headquarters for southeast Alaska. The Ward Cove visit will also include tours of the proposed new Alaska Marine Highway office space and the Ketchikan Cold Storage Committee's proposed new community cold storage facility.

Both members also plan to look at the deferred maintenance needs at the Ketchikan Pioneers' Home later on that day.

The visits coincide with a brief lull in legislative activity while several members of the House travel to Washington, D.C., for the Energy Council meetings. Williams said he wanted to use this time to learn more about projects for which the Finance Committee will be considering funding later in the legislative session. "I am looking forward to showing my finance colleagues some pressing community needs in Ketchikan and Sitka," Williams said.

Co-Chair Harris said, "This time affords us the opportunity to look at the capital projects outside of our own districts that being reviewed for funding this year." Representative Meyer agreed. "I'm glad I'll be getting a chance to see Ketchikan with Representative Williams, it will be helpful to get an up-close look at these important facilities."

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