



# ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY OPERATIONS BOARD

Long-Range Plan Workshop #6

May 2024



# AGENDA

- Progress and Goals
- Toolbox for Scenario Development
- Service Scenario Outputs and Analysis
- Project Schedule + Looking Ahead

## INTRODUCTIONS

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Link to LRP Webpage





# SUMMARY OF WORK TO DATE

# WHERE ARE WE?

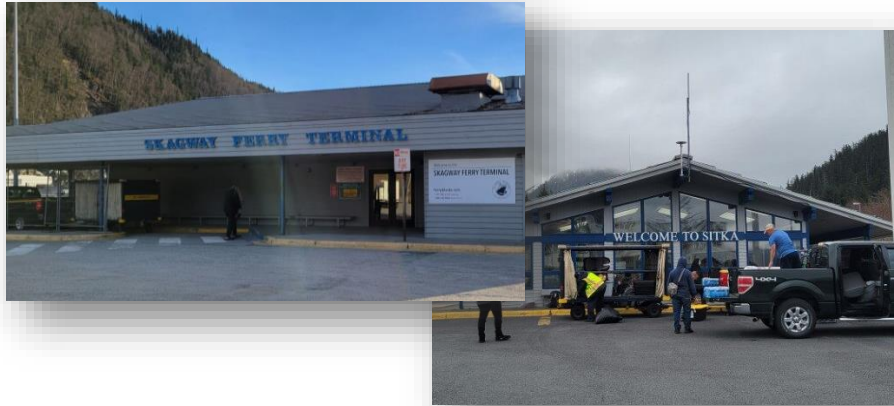
## PROGRESS REPORT





# WHERE ARE WE?

## ENGAGEMENT REPORT



### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**Public Open House**  
March 7<sup>th</sup>

**DOT Advisory Meetings**  
Monthly

**DOT/AMHS Fleet Configuration Workshops**  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>

**On-Board Promotional Flyers**  
Posted in April

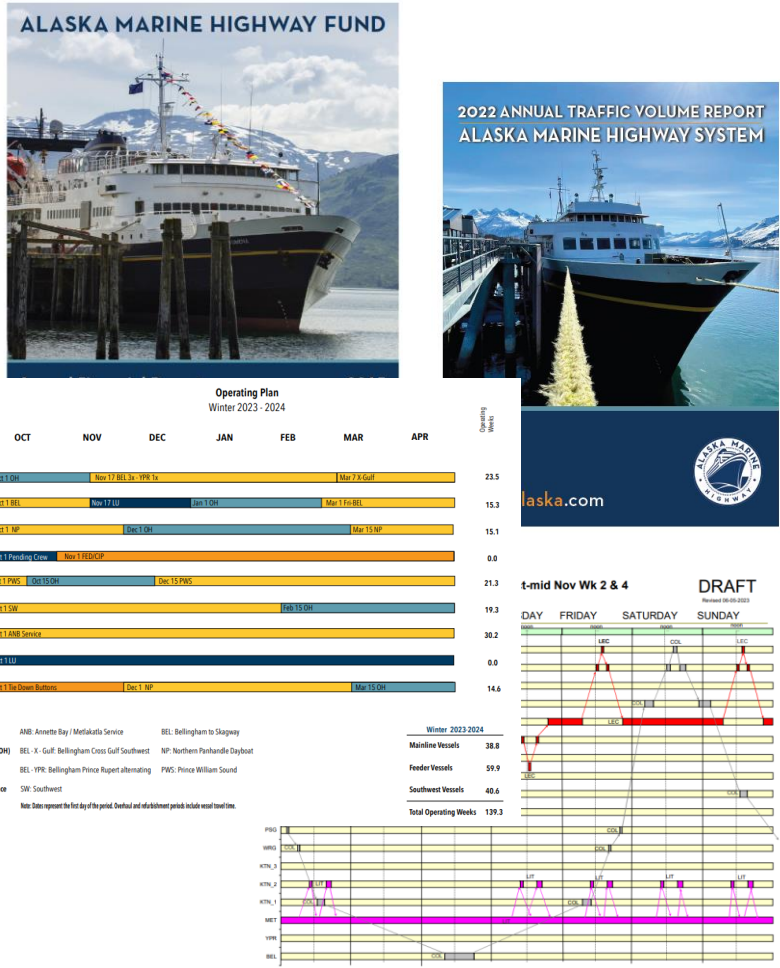
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# DATA REVIEW



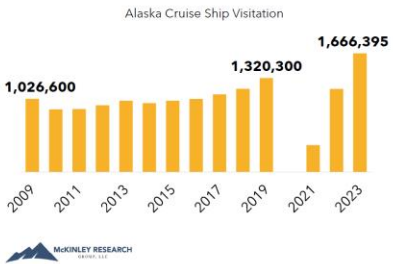
## Incoming Data from AMHS



## Demographic Analysis (MRG)

### INDUSTRY OUTLOOK TOURISM OUTLOOK

CRUISE SHIPS ARE PRIMARY MODE FOR VISITORS ACROSS AMHS-PORT COMMUNITIES



- Southeast Alaska experienced steep increases in cruise visitation.
  - Limited public willingness to see further increases.
- Coastal communities served by AMHS have limited infrastructure (hotels) to serve large increase in non-cruise visitation.
- Fuel prices, hotel rates/availability, length of stay, alternative destinations all factors in "independent" travel demand.
- Outside Southeast, timing and length of AMHS routes provides limited opportunity to attract "independent" travelers.
  - Average length of stay in Alaska is 8 nights

## 2023 Public Survey Results

### 2045 LONG-RANGE PLAN PUBLIC SURVEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

The 2045 Long-Range Plan (LRP) Public Survey sought to gain specific insight into the communities that the Alaska Marine Highway System serves as we continue to develop the LRP. This feedback, along with the many other data points referenced in this project, we are working to develop future service levels that suit each community's specific conditions and needs.

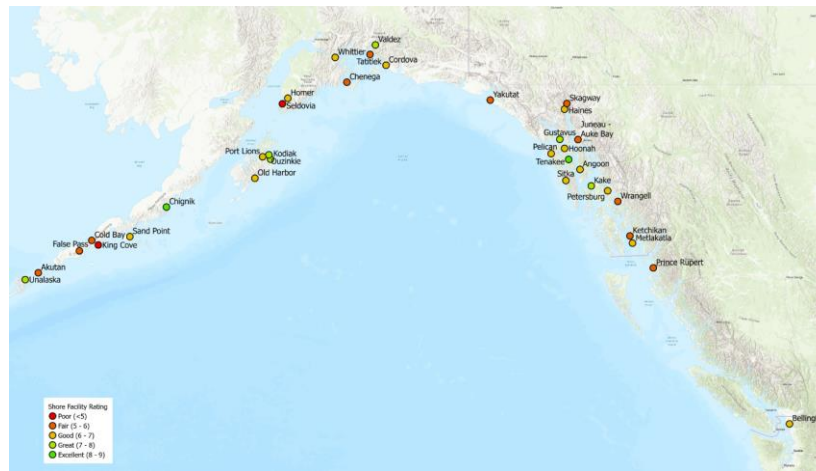
This survey was open between October 24th and November 7th and welcomed input from individuals and communities across Alaska. Some promotion methods included:

- SPECIFIC OUTREACH**
  - Ferry Focus Group
  - Cross Gulf, Homer/Kodiak, PWS, Southern SE, Northern SE, SW/Aleutian Chain
  - Public Open House
  - SEC Transportation Committee
- LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**
  - Newspapers
  - Kodiak Daily Mirror, Ketchikan Daily News, Juneau Empire, Alaska Public Media, Wangelli Sentinel
  - Local Radio Broadcast (KRBD)
  - Community Facebook Pages
- AGENCY-LED PROMOTION**
  - AMHS Webpages
  - AMHS/DO&PF Facebook Pages
  - E-Blast Gov/Delivery

### WHAT DID WE ASK?

- PROFILE OF FERRY USE**  
For what reasons do members of your community utilize or rely upon the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system to provide?
  - Which Alaska communities are you most often traveling to?
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION**  
What alternative transportation (non-ferry) modes are available to your community?
  - Are there any limitations to the alternative transportation modes available in your community?
- SERVICE LEVELS**  
What amount of AMHS ferry service do you believe is essential for your community?
  - What amount of AMHS ferry service do you believe your community needs to support economic growth?

## Existing Conditions Review (Terminals)



### WHAT IS THE AMHS 2045 LONG-RANGE PLAN?

The AMHS Long-Range Plan sets out to guide the operation and management of AMHS fleet and terminal infrastructure for the next 20+ years.

- Phase 1 of this effort began in the Summer of 2023. Preview the [Phase 1 Findings](#), which set Operational Budget through Fiscal Year 2028.
- Phase 2 is underway and will take sustainability and resiliency recommendations.
- There are plenty of opportunities for you! Whether you're interested or not, we'd love to hear from you on our website, your party!

### SYSTEM-WIDE PUBLIC SURVEY FINDINGS SUMMARY



### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



### ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



# TOOLKIT

## SERVICE SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT



### FLEET CONFIGURATION AND ROUTING MODEL

#### DATA INFORMING THE TOOL

- Ridership Data
- Community Typology Analysis
- AMHS Budget
- MMP, MEBA, IBU Requirements

#### FUNCTION

- Identify necessary crew and cost related to variable port call inputs.



### CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNING TOOL

#### DATA INFORMING THE TOOL

- 2022 AMHS Shore Facilities Condition Survey
- Other Conditions Assessments
- STIP (Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan)

#### ASSESSING NEEDS

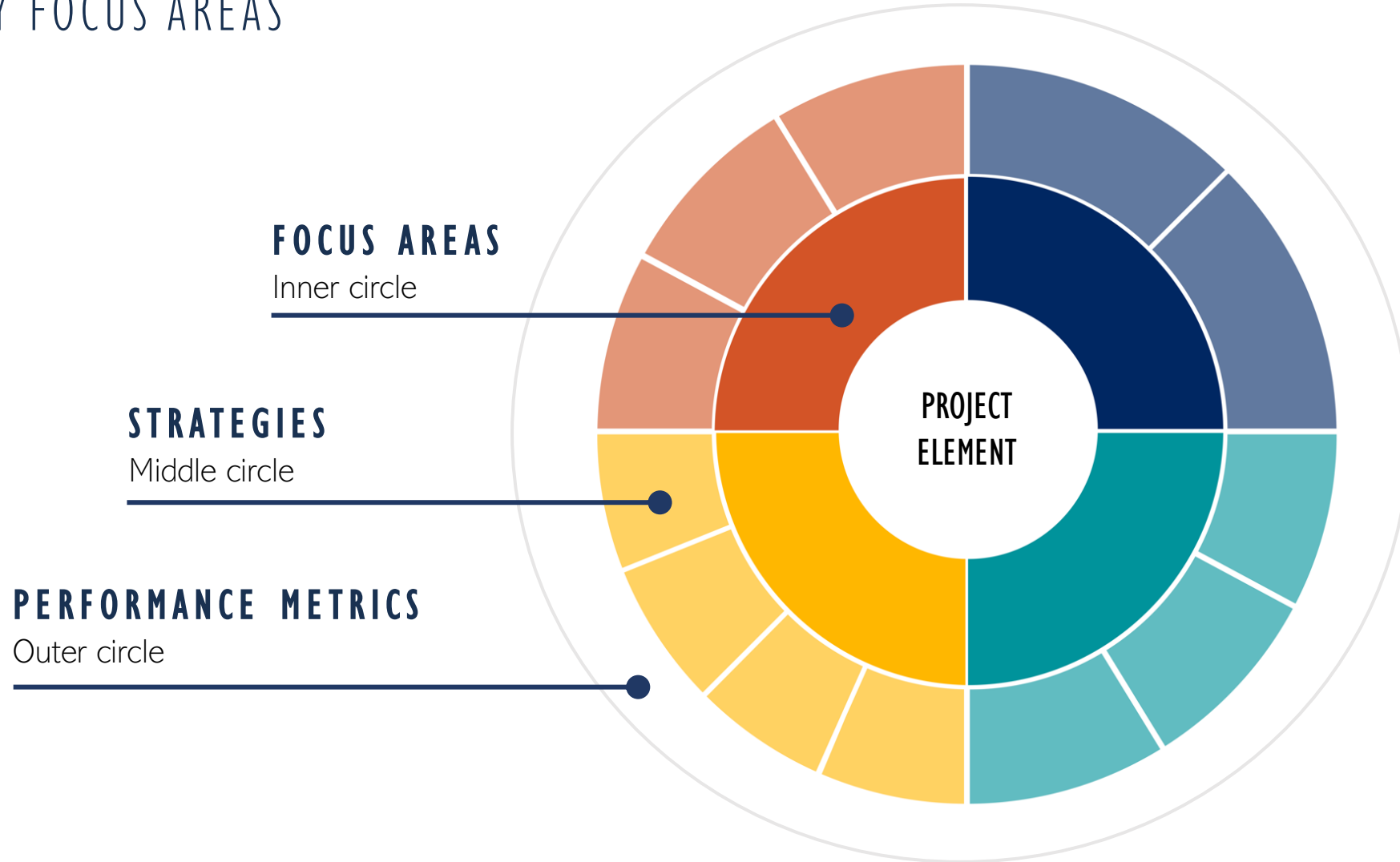
- Perform terminal conditions assessments and assign short/mid/long term replacement or repairs based on rating

#### ASSIGNING COSTS

- Identify key site components and associated cost for replacement or upgrade

# APPROACH FRAMEWORK

## IDENTIFY FOCUS AREAS





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## ELEMENTS UNDERWAY

Ongoing research into alternative operating systems:

- Educational partnerships
- Vocational training centers
- MITAGS partnership
- Apprenticeship programs
- Scholarships

Continued and additional efforts to support in-state employees:

- Pending LOA for in-state travel
- Pending LOA for pilotage incentives



# INFRASTRUCTURE

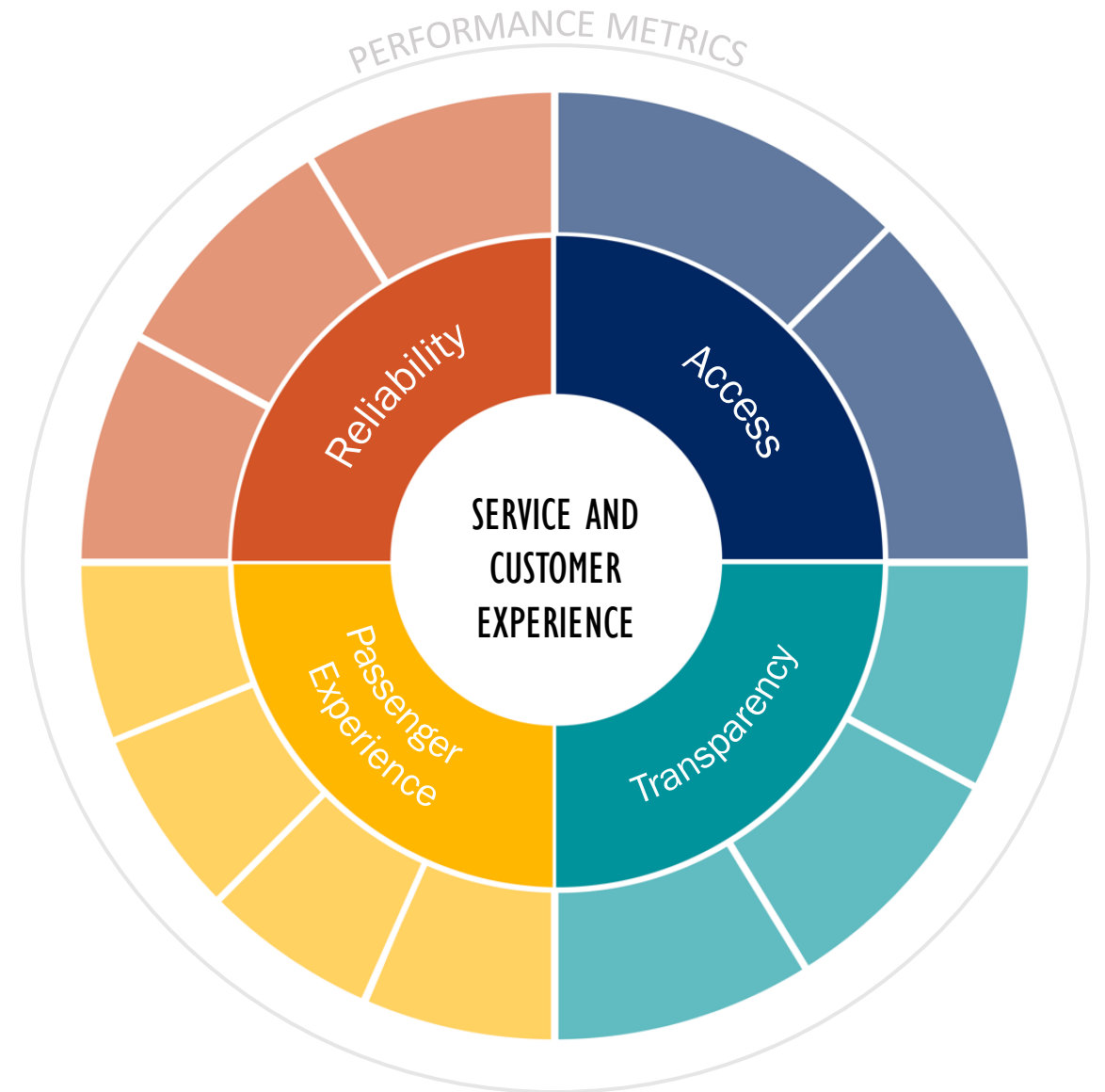
## FLEET AND TERMINALS

- Modernization
- Redundancy/Resiliency
- Standardization
- Efficiency



# SERVICE + CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

- Reliability
- Access
- Passenger Experience
- Transparency





# SERVICE SCENARIO FRAMEWORK



# SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

## DEFINING 2045 TARGET LEVELS



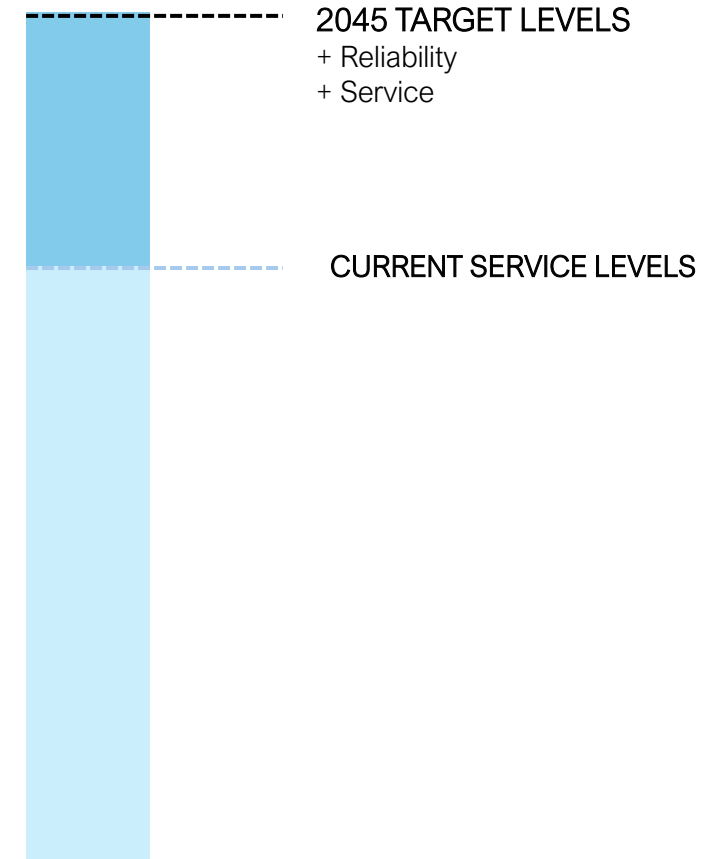
**2045 Target Levels** were established with the goal of defining an essential baseline level of service that would allow Alaskan residents mobility, access, and connection.

*Target levels for each community meet or exceed their 2022 levels.*

**Developed through:**

- Community survey
- Community needs assessment
- Typology identification

*Refer to March 2045 AMHOB minutes/recording.*



# SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

## FLEET DEFINITIONS



### ● SHUTTLE

- No crew cabins
- No passenger cabins
- Point-to-point multiple times a day

### ● MAINLINER

- Crew cabins
- Passenger cabins
- Multi-night stays by passengers

### ● DAYBOAT

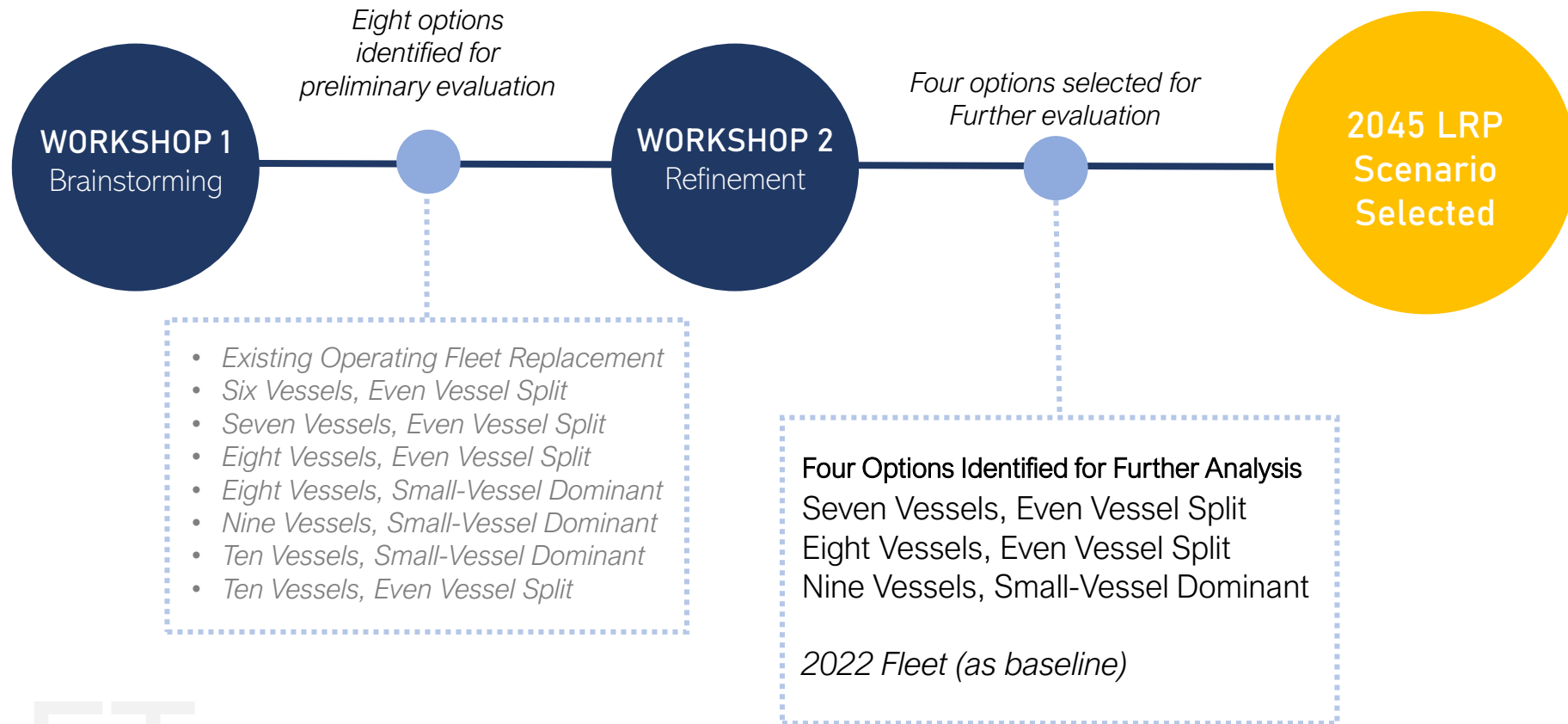
- Crew cabins
- No passenger cabins
- Not intended for passengers to overnight

### ● OCEAN

- Crew cabins
- Passenger cabins
- Multi-night stays by passenger
- Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of **Alaska**

# SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

## FLEET CONFIGURATION WORKSHOP



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# OPTION 1

## SEVEN VESSELS, EVEN VESSEL SPLIT

### PORT CALLS

Compared to 2045 target level

Does Not Meet Target (0)	Meets Target (24)		Exceeds Target (11)	
	Angoon	Prince Rupert	Seldovia	Hoonah
	Juneau	Sitka	Chignik	Kake
	Bellingham	Skagway	Cold Bay	Pelican
	Gustavus	Tenakee	False Pass	Chenega Bay
	Haines	Wrangell	King Cove	Cordova
	Ketchikan	Yakutat	Old Harbor	Tatitlek
	Metlakatla	Homer	Sand Point	
	Petersburg	Ouzinkie	Port Lions	Valdez
				Whittier
				Akutan
				Kodiak
				Dutch Harbor

### CREW

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

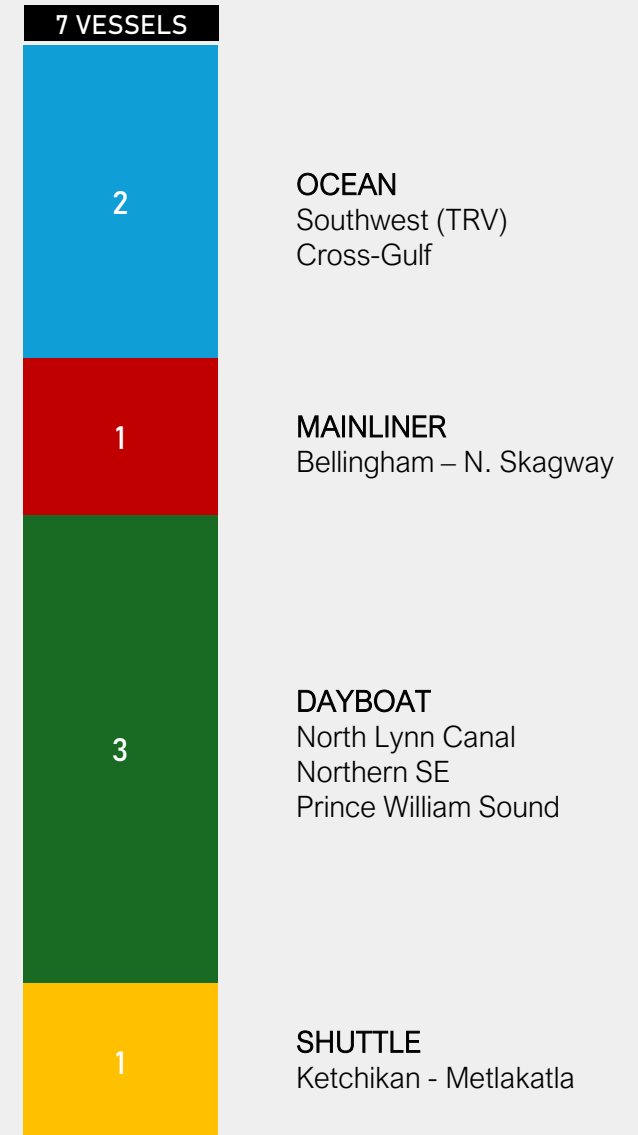
### COST

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE - Ops	HIGH – Maintenance/Capital
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Requires additional port calls on mainline routes from Bellingham to Skagway

## FLEET CONFIGURATION





# OPTION 1

SEVEN VESSELS, EVEN VESSEL SPLIT



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# OPTION 2

## EIGHT VESSELS, EVEN VESSEL SPLIT

### PORT CALLS

Compared to 2045 target level

Does Not Meet Target (0)	Meets Target (22)		Exceeds Target (13)		
	Angoon	Skagway	King Cove	Pelican	Seldovia
	Juneau	Tenakee	Old Harbor	Petersburg	Tatitlek
	Bellingham	Wrangell	Ouzinkie	Prince Rupert	Valdez
	Gustavus	Yakutat	Port Lions	Sitka	Whittier
	Haines	Chenega Bay	Sand Point	Cordova	Akutan
	Hoonah	Chignik		Homer	Kodiak
	Kake	Cold Bay			Dutch Harbor
	Ketchikan	False Pass			
	Metlakatla				

### CREW

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

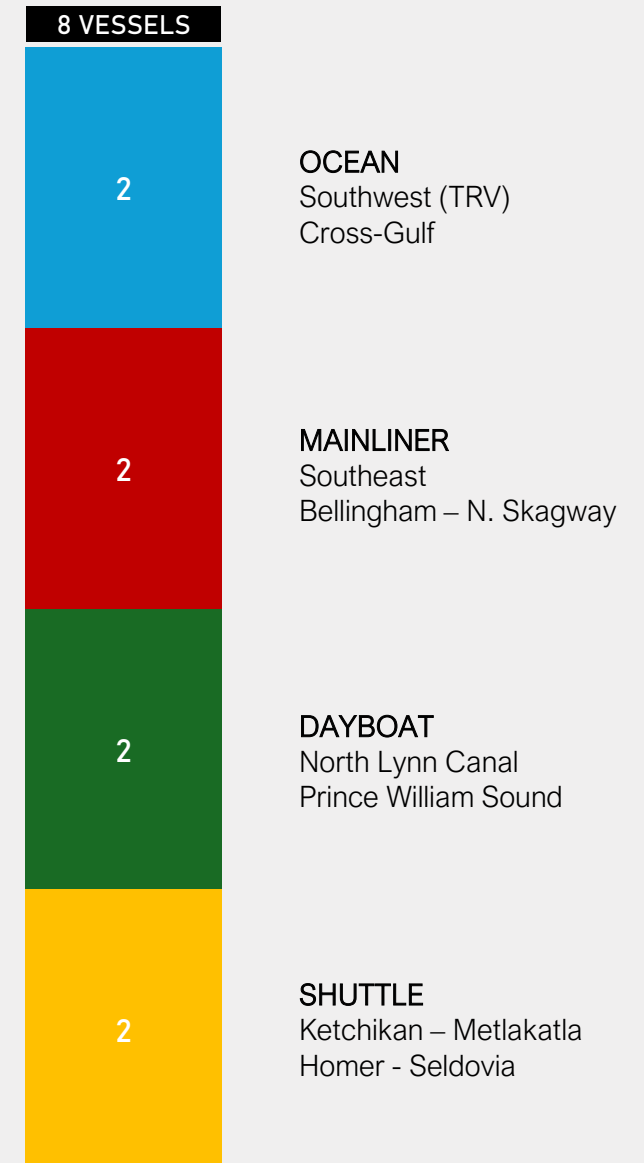
### COST

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE - Ops	HIGH - Maintenance/Capital
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Northern mainliner and southern mainliner in southeast
- Redundancy of fleet (two or more of each vessel type)

## FLEET CONFIGURATION





# OPTION 2

EIGHT VESSELS, EVEN VESSEL SPLIT



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# OPTION 3

## NINE VESSELS, SMALL-VESSEL SPLIT

### PORT CALLS

Compared to 2045 target level

Does Not Meet Target (0)	Meets Target (23)		Exceeds Target (12)		
	Angoon	Skagway	Old Harbor	Pelican	Tatitlek
	Juneau	Tenakee	Ouzinkie	Prince Rupert	Valdez
	Bellingham	Wrangell	Port Lions	Cordova	Whittier
	Gustavus	Chenega Bay	Sand Point	Homer	Akutan
	Haines	Chignik	Petersburg	Yakutat	Kodiak
	Hoonah	Cold Bay	Sitka	Seldovia	Dutch Harbor
	Kake	False Pass			
	Ketchikan	King Cove			
	Metlakatla				

### CREW

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

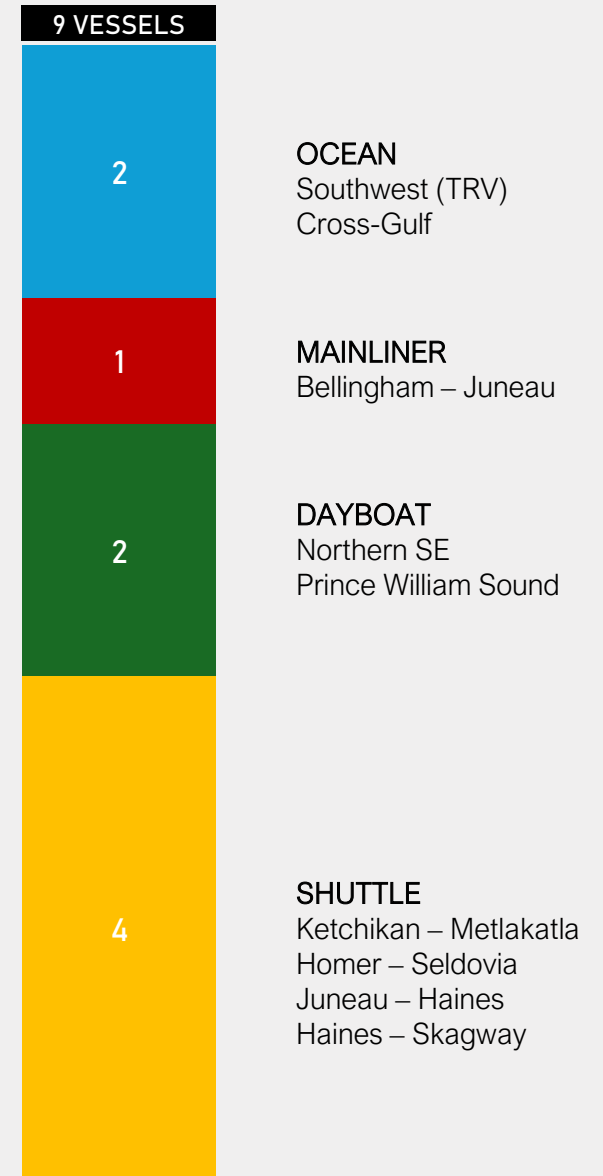
### COST

OPTION 1	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
OPTION 2	LOW	MODERATE - Ops	HIGH – Maintenance/Capital
OPTION 3	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Shuttle routes may have difficulty operating in winter season

## FLEET CONFIGURATION





# OPTION 3

NINE VESSELS, SMALL-VESSEL SPLIT



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# SUMMARY

## SCENARIO OPTIONS



● Shuttle    ● Dayboat    ● Ocean    ● Mainliner

**OPTION 1**    Seven Vessels  
Even Vessel Split

VESSELS (7)

● ● ● ● ● ● ●

PORT CALLS  
Meet and Exceeds ✓

CAP.	OPER.	MAINT.
\$\$	\$\$	\$\$

✓ Cost

**OPTION 2**    Eight Vessels  
Even Vessel Split

VESSELS (8)

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

PORT CALLS  
Meets and Exceeds ✓

CAP.	OPER.	MAINT.
\$\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$

✓ Redundancy

**OPTION 3**    Nine Vessels  
Small Vessel Split

VESSELS (9)

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

PORT CALLS  
Meets and Exceeds ✓

CAP.	OPER.	MAINT.
\$\$	\$\$	\$\$

✓ Maintenance Cost

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# SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

## NEXT STEPS

Four options selected for  
Further evaluation

2045 LRP  
Scenario  
Selected

Option 1: Seven Vessels, Even Vessel Split  
Option 2: Eight Vessels, Even Vessel Split  
Option 3: Nine Vessels, Small-Vessel Dominant

+ 2022 Scenario

Data Review  
and Needs  
Assessment

Develop Tools  
for Further  
Analysis

Identify  
Priorities

Potential  
Service Option  
Development

Analysis of  
Options

Identify 2045  
Service  
Scenario

## FURTHER SCENARIO EVALUATION

- Capital, Operating, Maintenance Costs
- System Capacity
- Service Levels
- Crewing Requirements
- Terminal Infrastructure Investment
- Goals and Priorities Alignment

## UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT

- Public Open House
  - Late June, Date TBD
- Ferry Focus Groups
  - June, Date TBD
- Next AMHOB Meeting, Summer
- Visit LRP Webpage for regular updates:  
<https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/operations/>





# WRAP-UP DISCUSSION

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## THANK YOU



Link to LRP Webpage