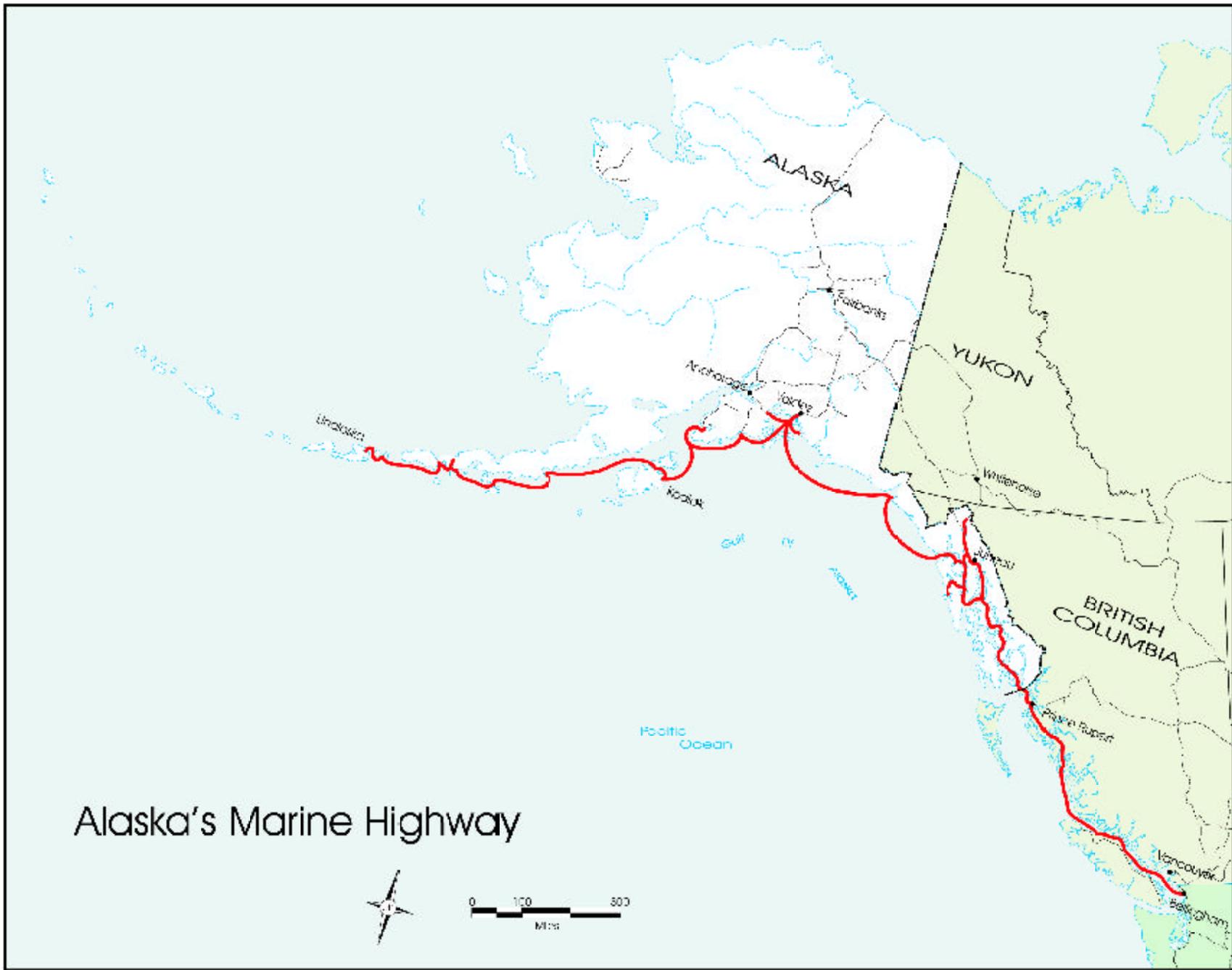


# INTRODUCTION



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## 1

## INTRODUCTION

This segment plan for the *Inside Passage* (Southeast) is designed to provide a detailed action plan for guiding and shaping the byway in the manner desired by communities along the byway in partnership with the Alaska's Marine Highway. Given the length of the full byway corridor (over 3,100 miles-direct route from Bellingham, Washington to Unalaska, Alaska) and the varied and diverse needs of the many communities along that route, this document provides an attempt to provide a more tailored and detailed set of actions for the communities within the *Inside Passage* region. Overall, this document and its sister documents for the *Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula* (Southcentral) and the *Kodiak and the Aleutians* (Southwest) regions, are designed to accompany and augment the full *Alaska's Marine Highway Corridor Partnership Plan* (CPP). The broad policies and actions of the CPP apply to all regions, but the information in this brief plan is tailored to focus on the *Inside Passage* portion of the byway. Ideally, it should guide grant applications and set priorities for marketing, facility improvements, and interpretation.

This plan consists of three sections following this *Introduction*. *Section 2* is an overview of the communities and Marine Highway service in this segment of the byway. *Section 3* is a review of the major issues that face the segment. Finally, *Section 4* is an action program based on the previous sections.

The information in this plan is a compilation of ideas and material from the full byway Corridor Partnership Plan as well as from working sessions held on-board the Marine Highway ships and in the communities with representatives from the region. These working sessions were called *Scenic Byway Sail-a-brations* and were held in all three regions of the Marine Highway between 2002 and 2004. Given the enormous size of the byway it would be extremely difficult to develop a detailed public outreach effort along the full 3,100 miles during this time period. As a result, this document presents a common sense approach of information from working with key elected, volunteer, and professional representatives that attended the *Sail-a-brations* as well as other informal meetings. Their ideas and knowledge combined with those of the Marine Highway staff and the consulting team offers the best estimates of challenges and directions for these communities and the Marine Highway System. In the months and years that ensue, communities will have the opportunity to modify and refine this document to best meet their needs as circumstances and times change. For the immediate future, this plan offers a clear path to integrating the efforts of Alaska's Marine Highway with the byway objectives of partnering with the communities and meeting the needs of passengers.

All Marine Highway ships now proudly fly the America's Byway flag.



