

Juneau-Skagway Road Urged by Woman's Club - *Alaska Daily Empire* – May 2, 1925

Skagway Organization Endorses Proposed Continuation of Local Road

Stating that it would be of greater benefit to more people than any other improvement in Southeastern Alaska, the Woman's Club of Skagway has urged the continuation of Glacier Highway from Eagle River to Skagway. In a letter from its corresponding secretary, Daisy M. Spreseke to Chas. H. Flory, District Forester with the U.S. Forest Service and C.W. Cheatham, District Engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads.

Taking the matter up as a representative organization of Skagway, as there is no active commercial association in the city, the letter states that the club heartily endorses that part of a letter of the Juneau Chamber of Commerce referring to the proposed Juneau-Skagway road, which appeared in *The Empire* under recent date.

The Skagway club points out the possibility and probability of new mining country being opened by the construction of a road through the mineral district which lies between Skagway and Juneau. It points out that with the road and the installation of a small ferry service, the Haines, Chilkoot Barracks and the contiguous Rainy Hollow mining district, would be easily accessible to both Juneau and Skagway.

"From a scenic point of view," the letter continues, "the road would excel even the much-advertised Columbia River Highway, and others of the Pacific Northwest, traversing as it would, the most beautiful portion of the entire Inside Passage."

The Club urges that if this road project should be decided on as a future policy the construction should also be started from the Skagway division, rather than be pushed through to completion from the Eagle River end. The chief reason for this is because there is no outlet from Skagway for automobile travel excepting about three miles of unfinished road to the north. The club realizes, the letter stated, that Juneau should have the largest share of road on account of difference in population but asks a fair consideration for Skagway.

"Skagway is greatly handicapped by its present isolation," states the letter. Our present means of communication with the outside world is entirely by water; and, there have been occasions when we have been cut off from civilization for weeks at a time.

"Linking together towns is one of the primary functions of road building, and in endorsing this project we feel that a road between Juneau and Skagway would be of immense benefit to both places."