

Inter-Island Ferry Authority
Invitation to Submit Proposals for Professional Services: Board of Directors Strategic
Planning

Introduction & Background

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA) is a public transportation authority established to provide essential marine transportation services between Prince of Wales Island and Revillagigedo Island in Southeast Alaska. Since beginning operations in 2002, the IFA has operated daily ferry service connecting island communities to regional hubs for medical care, education, employment, commerce, and government services. Serving a geographically remote region, the IFA plays a critical role in supporting quality of life and regional economic stability by ensuring reliable access to essential services.

The IFA operates within the public sector and is governed by a Board of Directors responsible for policy direction, fiscal oversight, and long-term planning. The organization works in close coordination with state and local partners while balancing the realities of weather-dependent operations, infrastructure maintenance, workforce needs, and evolving regulatory and funding environments. In recent years, the IFA has experienced shifts in its operating landscape, including an increased focus on long-term financial sustainability, capital planning, and governance effectiveness.

Currently, the IFA Board of Directors is seeking to engage a qualified professional consultant to facilitate a Board-level strategic planning process. The purpose of this engagement is to support the development of a practical, forward-looking Strategic Plan that clearly defines priorities, long-term goals, and governance-level focus areas. The Strategic Plan is intended to strengthen the Board's oversight role, support effective policy direction, and provide a multi-year framework for aligning future decisions with the IFA's mission and public service responsibilities. The IFA seeks a consultant with demonstrated experience working with public entities in complex operating environments who can provide structured facilitation, thoughtful analysis, and clear, actionable deliverables.

Proposed Services

The IFA is seeking a qualified consultant to design and facilitate a Board-level strategic planning process. The IFA is looking for a collaborative partner who can bring experience, structure, and professional judgment to support the Board of Directors in establishing clear priorities and long-term direction.

The consultant is expected to work closely with the Board to design a planning process that is thoughtful, efficient, and focused on governance-level outcomes. While the final

approach and methodology may be proposed by the consultant, the IFA anticipates that the planning process will include core elements such as:

- Review of relevant background materials, including bylaws, policies, financial information, and operational summaries.
- Assessment of internal and external factors affecting the IFA, such as funding conditions, infrastructure needs, workforce considerations, and community expectations.
- Facilitation of one or more Board workshops or retreats (in-person or virtual) to support strategic discussion, alignment, and priority-setting.
- Guidance in affirming or refining the IFA's mission, vision, and guiding principles, as appropriate.
- Development of strategic priorities, long-term goals, and governance-level focus areas.
- Identification of high-level performance measures or indicators to support Board oversight.
- Preparation of a clear, well-organized Strategic Plan document suitable for Board adoption.

The strategic planning process is intended to emphasize governance, policy direction, and long-range planning, while acknowledging key organizational considerations such as employee recruitment and retention and operational realities where relevant. The consultant should be able to clearly distinguish between Board-level responsibilities and management-level execution through effective Board governance, and to bring professional insight and experience to shape a process that best serves the IFA.

In addition to technical expertise, the IFA values a consultant who can foster productive discussion, collaboration, and consensus among Board members. Consultants are encouraged to propose alternative approaches or methodologies that meet or exceed the goals of clarity, practicality clarity, practicality, and effective Board governance, and to bring professional insight and experience to shape a process that best serves the IFA.

Scheduling Relating to this Invitation

- RFP Issued: January 26, 2026
- Deadline to Submit Questions: February 5, 2026
- Proposals Due: February 20, 2026
- Management Review & Recommendation: March 2026
- Board Review: March 2026 – Board Meeting

Award Date: Following the March Board Meeting

- Target Planning Sessions: Spring 2026

The IFA reserves the right to modify this schedule as needed.

Responding to this Invitation

To be considered, vendors must submit a complete proposal including the following:

- A letter that introduces the consultant or firm to the IFA and describing qualifications and experience with Board-level strategic planning.
- Outline of proposed facilitation sessions, workshops, or retreats.
- Timeline for completion of services.
- Description of deliverables, including the final Strategic Plan.
- Proof of insurance and professional licensing, if applicable.
- Proposed budget, including optional services.

No Warranties, Guarantees, or Promises

No member of the Board of Directors nor any employee of the IFA nor any contract employee of the IFA is authorized to make verbal assurances, commitments, warranties, guarantees, or promises to Vendors or anyone acting on behalf of any Vendor with respect to this invitation to submit bids and any resulting proposals. Any requests for information must be submitted in writing by the IFA. It is the sole responsibility of any Vendor submitting a proposal to conduct whatever due diligence that Vendor deems necessary.

Submit Responses:

By email: management@interislandferry.com

The deadline for submitting responses is 4:00 PM Alaska Time February 20, 2026.

For additional information please contact

Management & Board of Directors

Inter-Island Ferry Authority

boardofdirectors@interislandferry.com management@interislandferry.com