

BACK TO THE FUTURE

September 2011

Mayor Lester Lunceford

THE LIFELINE TO WHITTIER

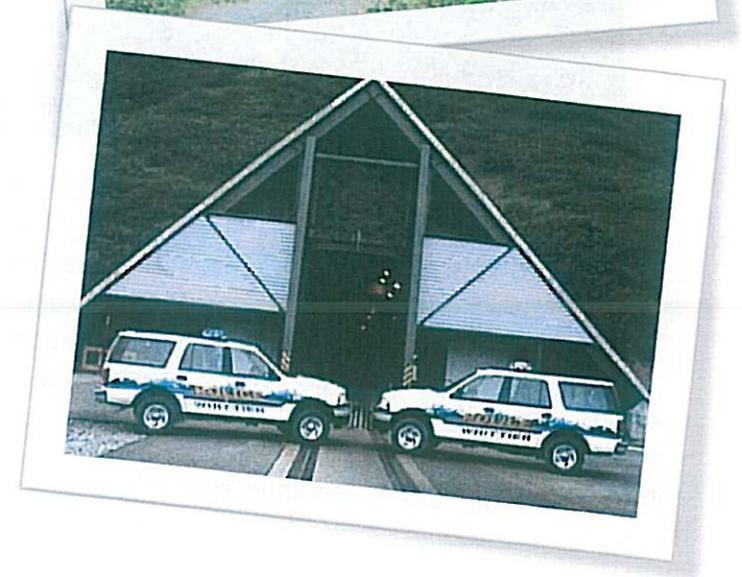
In 2000, the Anton Anderson Memorial tunnel opened to vehicle traffic allowing unlimited opportunity for the community of Whittier, its residents and businesses.

Prior to 2000, Whittier hosted approximately 150,000 visitors each year by train. With the tunnel opening to vehicle traffic, and in 2004, with the arrival of Princess Cruise Lines, Whittier saw an increase of nearly 700,000 visitors in 2010.

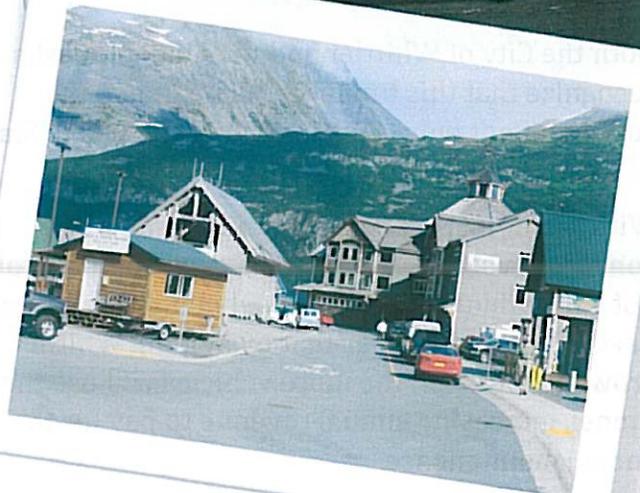
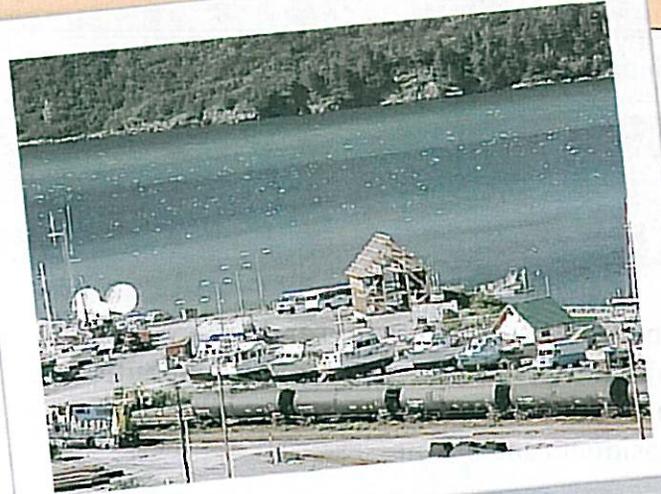
After much negotiations and convincing of State officials, in 2008, the winter tunnel hours were increased, allowing residents easier access to and from Whittier. In addition to the increase winter tunnel hours, we were able to demonstrate an economic hardship with the high cost of tunnel tolls for certain size vehicles, and in 2008, Alaska DOT reduced the cost of class B tolls for certain boat trailers from \$35.00 to \$20.00, making it cheaper and more inviting for recreational boater to use Whittier rather than driving to Seward or even Homer.

Both the City of Whittier and the State of Alaska recognize that this tunnel is the lifeline to the success of not only Whittier, but to the whole State of Alaska as well.

With the tunnel cost of nearly \$100 million to convert to vehicle use, and concerns of tunnel tolls not being able to pay for annual maintenance, we have argued every year that by helping Whittier grow and prosper, the more vehicles will use the tunnel, increasing annual revenue to pay for their annual maintenance.

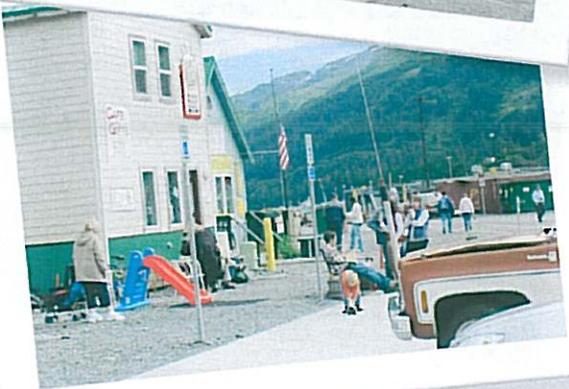


A VISUAL LOOK AT WHITTIER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

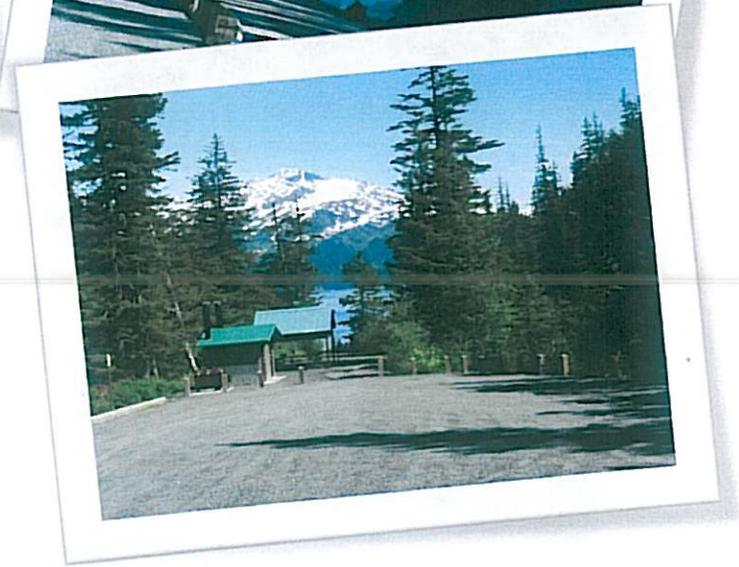
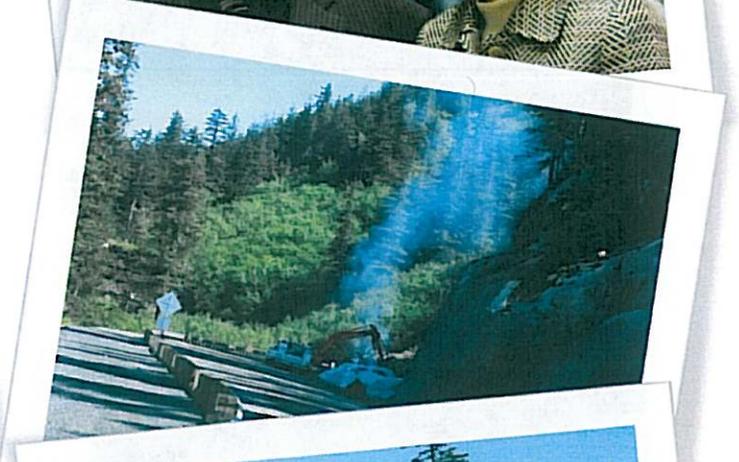
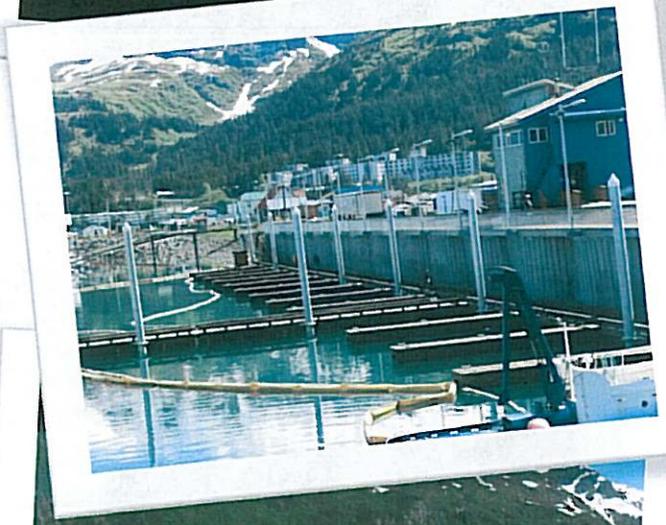


As your mayor, I had the privilege of signing the contracts bringing Princess Cruise Lines back to Whittier, not only creating local union jobs, but revenue to the city by way of passenger head tax and the sale of fresh water when in port. These companies contribute greatly to our local economy by employing local residents and paying both property and sales tax.

THE PAVING OF THE HARBOR UPLANDS



WHITTIER PURSUING FUNDING FOR PROJECTS



THE CITY OF WHITTIER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Residents of Whittier,

It is clear to me that you are concerned about the future of healthcare. It is also clear that many of you have expressed a desire for the City of Whittier to build a community center, a visitor center, a library and a larger museum.

Whittier has profited through the support and momentum of our major projects (harbor and Shotgun Cove Road), but we must address the more immediate needs and desires of our resident's basic needs.

I have recently identified several sources of funding that would enable us to build a functional inexpensive steel building similar to the one pictured, to house our clinic, visitor center, community center, museum, library, as well as our public safety, fire, EMS, council chambers and other city offices. However, it is important for our community to band together and contribute toward this effort.

We need to vote on October 4, 2011 to raise our property taxes from 5 mil to 8 mil. This will show outside agencies and funding sources that we are responsible, and that we too are contributing to our own needs and necessities.

I will do my best to encourage the new city council to pursue this project. I will leave my ideas and suggestions with our new city administration and support him/her in presenting a plan to our new council as they work towards making this multi-use facility become a reality.

Sincerely,

Lester Luncford



A MAYOR'S OUTLINE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST 9 YEARS

- Princess Returns to Whittier Creating Several Local Union Jobs.
- Went from nearly \$500,000 Deficit to balanced Budget.
- Took Ownership of State Harbor.
- Began Shotgun Cove Road Project.
- Began Harbor Renovation.
- Began Head of Bay Development.
- Successfully Extended Winter Tunnel Hours.
- Successfully Reduced Class B (boat trailers) Tolls thru Tunnel.
- Fostered Professional Relationships with Juneau and Washington DC., Chugach Forest Service and Chugach Alaska Native Corporation.
- Helped obtain \$35 million Dollars in Federal Funding for Continued Harbor Development at Head of Passage Canal.

During my nine-year tenure as mayor, Whittier has seen some positive changes. We have come a long way from before the tunnel opened to vehicle traffic. We still have a lot of work to do. The time



has come that we, as a community must band together to work responsibly towards our own destiny. Only "we" can provide the basic needs for our families and ourselves. Let us allow the next 10 years be Whittier best, and let's show the rest of the world that we are capable of accomplishing great things. It has been my sincere privilege serving as your mayor. I will continue supporting Whittier as we move ahead to our next chapter in history.

God bless Whittier.
Lester Lunceford

Mayor Lester Lunceford

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