



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Lynn Sterbenz, Grants & Projects Specialist

CC: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager; Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk; Stephanie Mandregan, Finance Director

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: Resolution 23-04 To apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for Planning and Pre-construction Activities for the Harbor Upgrade Project

SUMMARY: Resolution 23-04 approves applying for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for funding Planning and Pre-construction Activities for the Harbor Upgrade Project.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council has not taken previous action on this specific grant, but this same project has been submitted to a state grant opportunity over the past few years.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION: The proposed Harbor Road Upgrade Project is designed as an improvement to the existing "haul road" to allow for heavy commercial traffic in support of fishing activity, freight transport, and tourism. The objectives of the proposed Harbor Road Upgrade Project are to:

Increase Safety. The proposed road will contribute to the improved safety and access for vehicles, heavy equipment, and pedestrians to and from the main and small boat harbors. The project provides additional sight distance and intersection traffic signs to improve public safety. The project is designed in accordance with AASHTO design guidelines to provide required horizontal and vertical sight-distance and for this commercial roadway. The new road alignment will replace two existing ninety-degree blind corners around existing commercial buildings, providing additional safety for pedestrians, vehicles, and heavy equipment. Traffic control is with signage, no signalization is proposed. The design speed of the new road is 35 miles per hour, based on design road use and geometric and sight distance constraints of the right-of-way and adjacent existing buildings. The roadway is a crowned 30-foot prism for the travelled way and shoulders with gravel surface course and engineered subgrade.

Reduce Flooding. The project will solve a long-standing surface water drainage issue impacting three existing commercial buildings and the area around the new Vessel Repair Building and Small

Boat Harbor parking area and boat launch ramp. Surface drainage in the area is sheet flow to the harbor, or to a depression area around the commercial buildings impounded by the existing topography. The new road is contoured to provide drainage ditching along the alignment in the depression area and routed through a culvert under the new road to a drainage swale towards the harbor. The remainder of the alignment maintains the existing sheet flow for surface water runoff to the harbor and ocean. The Project includes drainage improvements to improve stormwater management in the harbor area proximate to the road alignment.

Improve Access. The goal of the project is to construct a new access road to the Saint Paul Island Main and Small Boat Harbors. The proposed road is the only access to the existing public main harbor. All ocean-going freight and travelers off-load at the harbor and will be transported across this proposed road to all other destinations on the island. Commercial and private traffic will utilize the proposed road for access to and from the small boat harbor, and seafood processing plant. Project would allow road to be kept open to public traffic to and from the main harbor during the Crab processing season. Portions of the roadway are closed to the public during the crab processing due to heavy equipment transport of containers in the area of existing commercial buildings and blind corners. The new Harbor Road will be a dedicated public road within the Harbor Subdivision right-of-way to replace existing unimproved roadway that is predominately on private property and runs around and between existing commercial buildings. The proposed project will provide direct road access to the public main and small boat harbors, without requiring driving between a number of existing commercial buildings. The proposed project will provide improved access to the main and small boat harbors, Trident Seafoods processing plant, and the Vessel Repair and Supply Store.

Reduce Maintenance Costs. The Project will significantly reduce existing operation and maintenance costs for the harbor access road through reduced water damage, ongoing subgrade and surface repairs, and grading requirements due to inadequate surface course.

The estimated cost for the Planning and Pre-construction of the Harbor Road Upgrade Project is \$1,500,000. The reason this proposal is for the Planning and not Construction is because RAISE Grant application requires a Benefit/Cost Analysis for Construction project proposals. The completion of the BCA will be included as a component of the Planning and Pre-construction activities.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could choose to submit this project to another state or federal grant opportunity instead of this one, or not submit this project to any grant funding opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: As a rural community, Saint Paul allowed to request 100% federal funding of the project. In other words, no match is required. The City would be responsible for cost overruns of the project should those occur.

LEGAL: None.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of this resolution.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 23-04.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 23-04