



CITY MANAGER REPORT

Reporting Period: January 15 – February 11, 2022

Prepared By: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

Date: February 11, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

On March 2 and 3, 2022, Mateo, Lynn and I met with our Alaska congressional office staff to discuss Saint Paul Island and City issues with them. Below is a summary of each of the meetings”

Office of Senator Murkowski

- Saint Paul Harbor Size: Basic question regarding size and depth of the harbor should be: what is the biggest ship Saint Paul Harbor wants to be able to accommodate in the harbor? That should be the baseline.
- USCG: Given the Coast Guard presence and potential, reach out to the CG and identify the size of the new cutters. CG is very prudent regarding navigation/space requirements.
- Grant Symposium: Senator Murkowski will be leading an Infrastructure/Grants Symposium on April 11th at the Denaina Civic Center in Anchorage. Every federal/state department impacted by the Transportation Infrastructure Bill will be present.
- Money from transportation infrastructure bill will be going to states for distribution.
- Member Direct Spending: For FY 2023 appropriation requests, Senator Murkowski plans to publish a portal online.
- Denali Commission: Congress reauthorizing Denali Commission to change the cost share and provide the commission with \$75 million.
- Local Match Issues: Regarding problem of cost share/local matches, when funding goes through State it gets “washed” (ie: match requirements dropped/waived).
- Corps Project Scoring: problem of smaller community projects not scoring well due to size/economies of scale is acknowledged. Thought is being given to changing weighing criteria for smaller communities.



Office of Senator Sullivan

- Tribal Cost Share: Noted that waiver of Tribal cost share requirements are capped, depending on type of project.
- All Infrastructure Bill funding has not been allocated yet. FY 2022 Appropriations not finished yet.

Office of Congressman Young

- USCG: TDX working on CG to have more active presence on St. Paul. Hold up is due to hanger situation at Saint Paul Airport. CG on record committing to island.
- \$11 billion for Corps in Infrastructure Bill. Little can be done to expedite slow Corps process.
- Tribal Funding Process: is a lot more generous. Elim's Chief's Report 100% federal cost-share. Administration fast-tracking tribal applications under equity agenda.
- Federal Highway Administration: State gets funds from highway trust fund. Money has been used for barge landings/docks.
- Nationally Significant Federal Lands & Tribal Projects: Eyak has a project that is a port for all practical purposes. NSFLTP is an annual application process.
- DOT: tribal entities, including ANC's eligible for PIDP as well.
- WRDA: review the WRDA Bill.

LOBBY EFFORTS IN JUNEAU

Mark Hickey, the City's lobbyist in Juneau has been tracking what the State administration and legislature has been working on. See the attached legislative report for more details.

On February 24, 2022, Mayor Mercurief, Mark Hickey and I met with Representative Bryce Edgmon and Senator Lyman separately via Zoom. We reviewed the following issues and projects with them:

- Snow Crab Fish Disaster Request
- School HVAC and Fire Sprinkler System
- Shared Fished Tax
- CBDG Grant Application Process still being a paper application process and not an online submission
- City of Saint Paul CAPSIS Projects
- Discussion of the State being ready for infrastructure funding
- Increased in military presence in Bering Sea based on Russia going to war with Ukraine

PLANNED INTERNET UPGRADES

I have been working with Dwayne Sakumoto with Pacific Dataport, Inc. to get a OneWeb terminal set up for the City to be used as a beta service for installation within the next 30 days. After the data testing period we would pay a regular monthly fee and discontinue use of the Telalaska service. It is expected the City would increase its internet plan by 50% from what we have now and the monthly cost would decrease by approximately 10%.

GRANTS/CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

State of Alaska Village Safe Water Capital Improvement Project

On March 8, 2022, I submitted the attached Planning Project Application to the State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program for preparation of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to evaluate the City of Saint Paul's current water controls system and to evaluate alternatives for upgrades and replacement of these controls. A construction cost estimate and environmental report will be completed for the recommended alternative. If awarded the \$75,000 will go directly to a selected engineering firm to prepare the PER.

USACOE Planning Assistance to States

We have been working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a scope of work for provisioning technical assistance via the Planning Assistance studying improvements and expansion of the Saint Paul Harbor. This past week we discussed a co-sponsorship of this project between the Aleut Community of St. Paul and the City. Partnering with the tribal government on this project would increase the available project funding from approximately \$200,000 to \$500,000 and would not require a 50% match from the City.

EDA Planning Grant

Lynn and I met with Shirley Kelly last month to discuss options for an Economic Development Administration planning grant to conduct community planning regarding how we develop other sectors of our local economy that do not rely as heavily on fisheries, specifically snow crab. Lynn and I will be working on submitting a planning grant to EDA for this effort.

USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program

The US Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program. We are working with R&M to resubmit the grant we submitted last year for Phase 1a of the harbor improvements which include a modern fendering system for the South Dock, a new harbor master office and three new mooring dolphins.