



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 18, 2021  
 TO: Mayor and Assembly  
 FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
 RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Borough Redistricting Update:** The Legacy format of the redistricting data has been released and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough population is 107,081 as of April 1, 2020. The State Redistricting Board will begin meeting the week of August 23, 2021. Some interesting information on our population is show below; first is a table showing Mat-Su and Anchorage 2010/2020 and the amount of change so you can see the relation and total for our region. Also included are a couple screenshots from the US Census showing the percentage 18 and over at 72.9% and the population density of 4.3 per square mile.

	Census	Census	Change	% Change
Area Name	April 2010	July 2020		
Alaska	710,231	733,391		3.3%
Anchorage / Mat-Su Region	380,821	398,328	17,507	
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	291,247	-579	-.2%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	107,081	18,086	20.3%



**Burma Road Crossing Cost Analysis:** A few discussions have occurred during the Burma Road underpass project contract award questioning the cost of the project. In reviewing the Burma Road Crossing project cost, the closest comparison would be to recent fish passage projects. Fish passage projects, in general, replace culverts located at and below grade, whereas this project is located at and above grade requiring the entire roadway to be raised on both sides. Taking into consideration the differences in the project types, the cost to construct this project is in alignment with the most recent Marble Way project awarded in February 2020.

**Design Costs (Design-Bid-Build vs. Design-Build)** - When comparing the Burma Road Crossing project to past fish passage projects, a distinct difference in the delivery method must be noted. Fish passage projects are designed by the Borough in advance of bidding and therefore are not represented in the construction contract. The recent cost of design for fish passage projects has ranged from \$50,000-\$140,000. In a design-build delivery, those design, engineering, and permitting costs are borne by the design-build team and included in the overall contract cost.

**Budget Estimate** - The Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate for this project was intended for budget development. This ROM, completed in March 2021 projected a total project cost of \$760,680.

**Project Differences** - While the original ROM was developed based on a 12-foot structural plate underpass, the proposed project design uses a corrugated pipe design of sufficient size. The estimated cost for the 12-foot structural plate was based on historical costs. Without factoring in material increases and accelerated delivery costs for the structural plate, the cost of the pipe is similar to the estimated structural plate system.

**Cost Impacts** – In addition to the pipe, two other cost drivers for this project are the amount of imported materials needed to seat the pipe and create the elevated roadbed and potentially the inclusion of guardrails (guardrails alone adds \$30,000 in costs). These figures will be adjusted as engineering is completed. Finally, the awarded contract is higher than the original Borough construction and design estimate however, the increased costs are reasonable given the increase in imported materials, the inclusion of guardrails and the timeline of completing the work this year.

**Lake Louise Ribbon Cutting:** Here is a link to see the post on Lake Louise Ribbon Cutting from Monday: <https://www.facebook.com/MatSuBorough/posts/3996455787130036>

## **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

### **Education**

- ['We are rewarding an individual for keeping our schools open': \\$20000 bonus for Mat-Su ...](#)
- [Local CNA training program working to fill a need in the healthcare industry](#)
- [Mat-Su Schools' COVID-19 Policy a "balancing act" that not all are happy with](#)

### **November Election**

- [Palmer Mayor announces run for Borough Mayor](#)
- [Borough candidate filing begins Monday for November's election](#)

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

## **Community**

- [Census figures show Mat-Su gained most new Alaskan residents in last 10 years](#)

## **COVID-19**

- [Alaska reports over 1,000 new COVID-19 cases over the weekend as hospitalizations continue to rise](#)

## **Fisheries**

- [New technology - LED lights a potential solution to bycatch problem in commercial fishing nets](#)

## **Future Events:**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 @ 2pm - Ribbon Cutting for Trapper Creek Water Distribution Center. This is a borough/community partnership to provide clean water for the community and surrounding area. Directions: MP 114 Parks Hwy, West onto Devonshire Drive, Adjacent to Trapper Creek Library and Fire Station 14-1.