



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

2022 Borough Strategic Plan: The updated Borough Strategic Plan is on the Borough website here:
<https://www.matsugov.us/docs/general/22341/FY-2023-2028-Strategic-Plan-FINAL.PDF>

Fish Passage Projects Summary:

- 58 Fish Passage Projects were completed in the last 12 years
- 116 Fish Passage Projects were completed during the previous 20 years
- Two grants this year are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (ADF&G)
- This year, we have construction planned for four fish passages:
 - Three along O'Brien Creek (O'Grady Drive, Royal Lane and Rubacaba Street)
 - One on Caswell Creek (Hidden Hills Road)
- 2023 projects: Birch Creek Tributary at Mastodon Rd and Crocker Creek at Settler's Bay Rd

2022 to 2027 Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee: The State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) Commissioner has invited the Manager to participate on a new 5-year Statewide CEDS Strategy Committee. The focus of the committee will be to:

- Help assess Alaska's economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT);
- Suggest goals and initiatives to include in the CEDS;
- Provide input on proposed economic development goals and initiatives;
- Finalize and approve the final draft, through a vote of the committee.

Houston School Construction Update: The contractor is finishing the structural steel and getting close to starting roofing and dry-in. MSB has accepted the State legislative grant for \$9 million, which provides project funding to procure furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) for the new school, as well as for related work on the old high school. Although we are still pushing for completion of the curriculum wing prior to the start of the 2022 fall semester, delays associated with material shortages will likely postpone this until December. Additionally, monetary claims are expected due to rapidly increasing material prices but these cost increases should be covered by FEMA. The School District is planning for a January 2023 school opening (second semester of the 2022-2023 school year).

Transportation 21 Update: Design work is continuing on four Transportation 21 projects that already had design work underway when the projects were approved by voters in November 2021. We are systematically procuring design services for the remaining projects as well as right-of-way acquisition and construction management services. By mid-February, we will have advertised for design proposals on nine projects with the remainder open for proposals on or before mid-March.

Design RFP	Projects	Target Open Date
1	Hidden Hills Reconstruction Lakes Boulevard Upgrade Cheri Lake Dr. / Karen Ave / King Arthur Dr. Upgrade	1/17/22
2	Tex-Al Extension, Upgrade and Pathway Hemmer Road Extension South Engstrom Road to Trunk Connector	1/31/22
3	49 th State Street Pathway MSBSD 2018 Pedestrian Projects MSBSD Shaw Elementary Turn Lane	2/16/22
4	2021 Road Bond Projects Construction Management	2/22/22
5	2021 Road Bond Projects Right-of-way Acquisition and Relocation Services	2/24/22
6	Lucille Street and Pathway Upgrade Fern Street Upgrade and Pathway Edgerton Parks Road – Mtn Trails Drive Upgrade and Pathway	2/28/22
7	Palmer Fishhook Separated Pathway Smith Road Upgrade and Pathway	3/10/22

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Schools

- *Mat-Su leads Alaska's largest school districts in graduation rate - Frontiersman*

Resource Development

- *Plans for a disputed mega-road through the Susitna Valley backcountry are moving forward again - ADN*

Redistricting

- *Fate of Alaska's new legislative map hangs in the balance as parties close arguments ...-AK Public Media*

Governor's Office

- *Task force established for food security and independence - Alaska's News Source*

Assembly

- *Community Councils voice concern over proposed Borough gravel changes – KTNA*

State

- *State Reps. Kurka and Eastman sponsor bill to move the capital from Juneau to Willow ... - AK Public Media*

Economy

- *Anchorage metropolitan area homes, including the Mat-Su, rose by 8-9% in 2020*

Future Events:

West Susitna Access Public Meetings from 4pm to 7pm on Wed., Feb. 23, 2022 and Wed., Mar. 23, 2022 (Presentations at 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm) -- Online: https://bit.ly/susitna_access or Phone: 235-215-8782, Meeting ID: 860 7777 0537, Passcode: 150663