



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

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

Disaster Declaration for State of Alaska: On March 14, 2022, President Biden granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Alaska triggering the release of federal funds to help communities recover from the Severe Winter Storm and Straight-line Winds that occurred January 1-4, 2022. Federal funds are specifically for public assistance (public facilities) and open up opportunities for hazard mitigation to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from future natural hazards. To date, there have been 1,200 public facilities identified for public assistance.

This declaration is in addition to the State declaration, which already provides support for individual assistance. As of February 18, 2022, a total of 1,320 individuals have applied to the State for individual assistance. The State will directly contact those applicants that will be receiving State assistance.

For commercial individual assistance (i.e. small business), 80 businesses reported damages to the MSB. Only five or six applied through the Small Business Administration (SBA). We are still waiting to hear from the SBA about a declaration to support those businesses.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR): The Fiscal Year 2021 CAFR is on the Borough website here: <https://transparency.matsugov.us/pages/financial-information>. The Borough received an unqualified opinion, stating the "statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position" of the Borough and its component unit. The Financial Highlights as addressed on page 5 state that assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. The unassigned areawide fund balance was \$8,307,616, the total fund balance was \$63,261,730, and the total outstanding debt decreased \$23,769,628. There was no finding in Fiscal Year 2021 relating to the financial statements and the finding from Fiscal Year 2020 was reported as corrected.

As a reminder, \$8,000,000 of the unassigned fund balance was appropriated to the 2021 Transportation Package on January 4, 2022. Please contact Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, or Liesel Weiland, Comptroller, if you have any questions regarding the financial statements.

Butte Relocation Study: The Butte Relocation Study is currently underway and collecting data. In December 2021, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) installed Air Quality (AQ) monitors at two sites in the Butte community with the cooperation of the Butte Elementary School and the Plant Material Center. A relocation will need EPA approval. These two sites had been identified in a saturation study and preliminarily approved by EPA. The monitors will continue to collect data through at least December 2022. Once one year of collocated data is obtained, DEC will analyze it for trends and make a determination in coordination with EPA on whether a suitable

alternate location has been found. DEC will submit their findings and recommendation to EPA in early 2023 and will begin transitioning equipment to the approved location once a response/approval is received from the EPA.

State of Alaska Debt Reimbursement: In 2002, a number of municipalities took on debt obligations for ports and harbors in addition to other municipal infrastructure improvements. The State has not budgeted for reimbursement over the past three years and it is currently not in the State's proposed FY23 budget. MSB would have received reimbursement for \$700,000 each year totaling \$2,100,000. Last week, the Manager signed a letter, along with Aleutians East Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Unalaska, and City of Valdez, to the Senate and House Finance Committees requesting consideration in any supplemental appropriations to make each entity whole.

Community Transportation Program (CTP) Project Update: In 2018, MSB residents approved 10 road bond projects. These projects required a 50% match, which the State did not match. Therefore, MSB nominated the projects for federal funding through the Community Transportation Program (CTP). Four of the projects scored high enough to warrant federal funding. The four funded projects are underway with Alaska DOT&PF. Because they are federally funded projects, DOT&PF is responsible for developing and constructing the projects. The Borough match will become available when the 2018 road bonds for these four projects are sold this summer. The four projects are as follows: Seldon Rd. Extension (Beverly Lake Rd. to Pittman Rd.); Hemmer Rd. Upgrade & Ext. (Palmer); Hermon Rd. Upgrade & Ext. (Wasilla); and Trunk Rd. Ext. South, Ph. 3 (upgrade bridge over Wasilla Creek). All projects are in the design phase and additional information will be provided as timelines for construction become available.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Governor's Office

- [Governor Dunleavy Prioritizes PFD and Savings with Projected \\$3.6 Billion Increase in Revenue Forecast](#)
- [Governor Dunleavy Issues Statement on Federal Suspension of Ambler Road Project](#)

Assembly

- [Borough seeks Members for a Road Service Area task force - KTNA](#)

Trails

- [Outdoor recreation in Alaska is Different, the Alaska Long Trail will be too](#)

Iditarod

- [Brent Sass holds off Dallas Seavey to seize his first Iditarod victory - ADN](#)
- [Mat-Su Animal Care's own runs in the Iditarod – FACEBOOK POST](#)

Federal Government

- [Murkowski Directs \\$230 Million to Alaska Projects – Sen. Murkowski Office](#)
- [President Biden Approves Alaska Disaster Declaration – The White House](#)
- [FEMA makes it official: January storm a disaster – Frontiersman](#)
- [Senate unanimously votes to make daylight savings time permanent – Alaska's News Source](#)

Future Events:

- West Susitna Access Public Meeting, from 4pm to 7pm on 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
- Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Open House #1, Tues., Mar. 29, 2022, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 869 5954 0744, Meeting Passcode: 992959, Teleconference: 669-900-6833
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86959540744?pwd=QWR2Y2plQ0Z5ZHE4SGY2K0hjcDZkZz09>