



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 31, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

West Su Access: The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT) project to extend a road across the Little Susitna and Susitna Rivers to open road access to public lands west of the Susitna River will begin public outreach with an online public comment period and an open house in Anchorage and Wasilla on August 14 and 15 respectively. The Borough Mayor and Manager received an update from project staff on July 30 and invited DOT to provide an update at the August 20 Assembly meeting. This will allow the Assembly to provide a comment for the record, should that be desired. More information is available at <https://westsuaccess.com>. The current "proposed action" for the road connection is at the end of West Susitna Parkway near Big Lake as opposed to the alternate alignment previously discussed, which connected to Ayrshire Road in the Point MacKenzie area.

Firearms Training Solicitation: This solicitation closes on July 31, 2024. At this point, we have multiple submittals and others in work. Borough staff will begin the evaluation by the end of this week with a contract award around August 10, 2024. Class schedules should follow within weeks of award, pending approval of locations and schedules by the Borough.

Junk Vehicle Cleanup Program: Bid 25-019B Junk Vehicle Removal opened on July 25, 2024. Similar to last year's program, which resulted in several hundred junk vehicles being removed from private property, this year, a single bidder will be paid per vehicle to remove them from private property and accept drop-off vehicles at no charge.

In response to the solicitation, two bids were received. AK Car Crushing and Recycling submitted a bid of \$174 per vehicle, and the other bidder offered \$225 per vehicle. An award to the low bidder will result in up to 431 vehicles being removed from private property, with an unknown number of free drop-off vehicles being accepted. Work should begin the first week of August.

Talkeetna Sewer and Water Sewer Condition Assessment: An excerpt from the executive summary of the recent draft condition assessment is included. This study evaluates where infiltration and inflow (I&I) occurs within the Talkeetna sewer system. To determine this, a sewer condition assessment was performed on the system. The system contains approximately 25,000 linear feet (LF) of ductile iron gravity sewer main. The majority of the pipes are 8 inches in diameter. The age of the pipe is varied. An

inspection was completed on the gravity sewer mains in early June 2024. Steph Engineering LLC performed sewer structure inspections, including manholes, cleanouts, and sewer lift stations. The sewer system is overall in good condition. The sewer mainlines showed very few defects, and sewer structures appear to be in structurally sound condition. Manholes inspected appear to be the highest contributor to I&I within the sewer system. High levels of fats, oil, and grease (FOG) buildup were observed in the downtown area. It is recommended that restaurants have operational grease traps to minimize FOG buildup within the sewer system. It is recommended that Phase I repairs be completed and the Borough evaluate the effectiveness of Phase I within their system before performing Phase II work. It may be determined that Phase II is not necessary.

Project Cost Estimates

Phase I - Manhole Project	\$ 894,650
Phase II - Mainline Repairs	\$ 682,588

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [It's Dipnetting Season, and Alaskans say the annual tradition is about more than filling their freezers](#)
Alaska Public Media
- [ADFG: Illegally Discarding Fish Waste Will Draw Fines](#)
Sporting Journal

Natural Resources

- [Alaska Approves Plan to Build \\$56.6 M Pipeline for LNG Imports](#)
Hartenergy.com
- [Enstar in early discussions for use of Port MacKenzie for LNG hub](#)
Frontiersman

Transportation

- [Long Term Mat-Su Borough road strategy relies on voters to regularly ok new tax rates](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [A proposed Houston airport site could accommodate large jets](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Elections

- [Alaska Supreme Court to hear appeal to ranked-choice voting repeal measure Aug. 22](#)
ADN

Schools

- [Mat-Su school district prepares for students as staff begin to trickle into classrooms](#)
Alaskanewssource

Community

- [Houston firewood program makes its first deliveries](#)
Frontiersman
- [United Way Mat-Su Tool Library provides equipment for community](#)
Frontiersman

Economy

- [Albertsons, Kroger merger temporarily halted by Colorado Judge](#)
Undercurrent News

Facebook Posts

- [Fish Creek Dipnetting](#)
Reach: 64,794