



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 29, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

RSA Contract Bidding: The following are the Road Service Area (RSA) contracts staff are expecting to be out to bid this spring.

RSAs on schedule to bid: 15 (Caswell), 16 (South Colony), 19 (Lazy Mountain), 23 (North Colony), 26 (Butte), 30 (Trapper Creek), and 31 (Alpine).

RSAs 20 (Willow) and 29 (Talkeetna) were bid last year and the contractor elected not to renew for the upcoming year so these will be out for bid.

RSAs 9 (Midway), 14 (Fairview), 21 (Big Lake), 17 (Knik), 25 (Bogard), 27 (Meadow Lakes), and 28 (Gold Trail) are being renewed for another year.

Port MacKenzie 4th Quarter Report (October, November, December 2024):

Vessel Traffic:

- In October, one bulk carrier and 12 barges utilized the multiple docks and ramps.
- The bulk carrier, Genco Magic, arrived with a shipment of 52K tons of road salt from Baja for Northern Gravel & Trucking LLC and was berthed the deep draft dock from October 1 – October 12.
- Northern Gravel & Trucking LLC also brought in three barges to load with salt for distribution throughout the state.
- We saw continued barge activity from Alaska Crane, which brought multiple loads from Fire Island.
- Cruz Construction, Inc. brought multiple barges carrying equipment and materials from Kongiganak, AK.
- Western Construction & Equipment brought a barge load of construction equipment from Tyonek to the port in October.
- Also in October, the US Army SDDC conducted a Proof of Principal Project at the port with a one-day barge docking.
- First-time user Alaska Directional brought a barge in to be loaded with telecom freight and construction equipment destined for Beluga.

Maintenance:

- No major maintenance activities took place during this quarter.
- Of note is there appears to be at least one exterior water leak coming from the deck landings on the second floor offices. The port has reached out to MSB O&M to help figure out a long term solution to the leak; which may entail a repair of the deck underlayment.

Conveyor

- A section of the conveyor that was dismantled on the gravel pad and reassembled on the deep-draft dock trestle as part of the 2023 salt ship discharge, was used again during the salt off-load operations that took place in October 2024. The unused sections of conveyor rem

Grants

- The port was not successful with their grant application to the Port Infrastructure Development Program – if awarded, the port would have received funding to construct a barge haulout ramp.
- The port was not successful with their grant application to the US Marine Highway Program – if awarded the port would have purchased a telehandler forklift.
- The port was not successful with their grant application to the FEMA Port Security Grant Program – if awarded the funds would have been used for a variety of security upgrades at the upper gate and on port premises.
- The Alaska Railroad applied to the Federal Rail Administration under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, and we learned that the grant was rejected and therefore not reviewed due to technical reasons.

Port Commission

- The Port Commission consists of Chair Dane Crowley, Vice Chair is Fred Elvsaa, Bryan Scoresby, John Pike, and Christopher Gerteisen.
- Dane Crowley and Christopher Gerteisen successfully submitted requests for reappointments to the Port Commission. Commissioner Crowley's and Commissioner Gerteisen's new terms will end on December 31, 2027.
- The Port Commission is holding a work session to discuss the West Susitna Access project on Friday, January 10, 2025.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025.

Barge Haul Out Ramp

- Design, engineering, and permitting, of the proposed barge haul out ramp is being done by Moffat & Nichol. In December we reached 95% design; next steps in the process is to reach 100% design, and submit permit applications.

Planning

- The port is currently working on an update to the master plan. A draft has been developed and staff will update as time allows.

Business Development and Marketing:

- The Borough is working on the following prospects:
 - Central Alaska Energy, the only leaseholder in the Port District, is still interested in developing a fuel tank farm at their site near the rail loop; we met with their leadership this month, and they are still working out internal details for how to move the project forward.
 - Nova Minerals is looking to develop critical minerals in the west Susitna region, specifically a metal known as “antimony;” they have applied for a Department of Defense grant and, if successful, will move at a quick pace to develop the resource and use Port MacKenzie for export of this commodity. The Mayor and Manager met with a DOD critical minerals representative and NOVA Minerals to discuss Port capabilities on January 27, 2025.
 - Contractor Use of Port MacKenzie Docks
 - The port has received interest from two major contractors seeking information, pricing, and agreement for long-term use of the port as a staging and laydown area for the upcoming Port of Alaska (Anchorage) modernization construction project.
 - Modular Home Fabrication
 - A manufacturer is currently exploring options to develop a modular home fabrication facility in the Port District uplands
 - US Department of Defense
 - The Department of Defense continues to visit Port MacKenzie to assess whether the port could be used for training and offloading ammunition and explosive ordinances and continue to host site visits with military personnel.
 - Arctic Edge 2025 planning is underway, and the military intend to use Port MacKenzie in August 2025 for training and exercise.

Fourth Quarter 2024 Wetlands Bank Report: We had no sales in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Assembly

- No Public input for Multi-Family Developments
KTNA
- Mat-Su Borough Assembly passes ordinance granting Borough Public Libraries access to \$41,250.75 of grant money
KTNA
- Mat-Su Property Values rise as new builds reach 7-year high
Mat-Su Sentinel
- Mat-Su Assembly rejects public hearing requirement for multifamily housing projects
Mat-Su Sentinel

Mat-Su State Legislators

- As Legislature convenes, Mat-Su Senator, new minority leader, seeks ‘common ground’ with coalition
Frontiersman

Natural Resources

- [Gold Mining welcomes presidential executive order to unleash Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential](#)
Stock Titan.net

Fisheries

- [Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Drainages fishing regulation changes](#)
Delta Wind
- [Invasive pike returning to Kenai waters?](#)
Alaska Sporting Journal
- [Fishing Freshwater Northern Pike Threatening freshwater habitats -secret ocean pathway](#)
SI.com
- [Fish and Game project 7 million sockeye for Upper Cook Inlet](#)
Peninsula Clarion

Weather

- [Weird weather rain and wind, snow and floods leave many with weather whiplash](#)
Frontiersman

Top Facebook Posts

- [Road Crews take on Frozen Culverts \(photos\)](#)
145,700k views, 60,831 reached, 105 comments, 1.7k likes, 58 dislikes, we gained 493 followers for month of January. (750% increase over last month, two-thirds of the entire 2024 followers total. We have had just under 1 million views this month, 421% increase over the previous month. photos and weather events accounts for roughly 90% of these increased numbers. Bottom Line: People expect their local Government to deliver quickly digestible information that is useful to them. The metrics tell that story.
- [Blizzard Warning for Susitna Valley – Jan. 28](#)
152k views, 44k Reach
- [Flash Flood Watch issued](#)
42k views, 20k Reach

Future Events:

- Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025 from 3pm-7pm, Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds