



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Cell Tower Valuation: The Assembly approved funding to hire a firm that specializes in cell tower valuations. For MSB, that cost was ~\$286,000. The contract has been progressing smoothly. In September, three contractor staff members spent over a week in Alaska, visiting all our cell sites and conducting a comprehensive inventory. They have since completed the valuation process for the towers, with the total valuation increasing from \$9,379,751 in 2024 to \$32,201,720 in 2025. At the current mill rate of 8.748 an additional \$199,600 in revenue would be collected this year. That amount is before we value the associated carrier equipment.

Currently, the contractor is working on the valuation of all associated carrier equipment, and we anticipate receiving that report by mid-March. We expect the tax impact of the associated carrier equipment to exceed the tax amount related to the tower valuation. This value would be included on next year's tax roll.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions: Alaska DOT&PF recently gave notice of seasonal weight restrictions in Central Region. This link <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=218503> indicates restrictions affecting Kenai Peninsula were put in place February 26. It has been rumored the Department may impose restrictions in Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley as soon as this week.

These annual weight restrictions are utilized to reduce roadway damage caused by heavy vehicles traveling on highways weakened during spring break-up conditions. The weight restrictions are stated as a percentage of legal allowable weight and are applied to the maximum axle loading in accordance with 17 AAC 25.013(e).

The table below shows historical dates the Borough has both started and ended restrictions. These annual restrictions are very dependent upon weather, local soil conditions, and frost depth, but usually occur between mid to late-April and May/June each year. In 2025, we are seeing slightly warmer than normal ground temperatures which may affect the timing of restrictions. As always, we will give as much notice as possible, but changes in temperature can happen quickly. Generally, when we start seeing

thawing that does not fully freeze to depth by the next morning, we will begin to institute restrictions. Since these limitations may reduce the allowable gross vehicle weight by as much as 50%, it would be advisable to transport as much freight as possible prior to the above dates.

Road Service Area (RSA) Mileage: The Assembly asked for the road mileage associated with each of our RSAs. Those RSAs highlighted in yellow will be out for bid this spring. All but one of the RSAs are well under 100 miles each. This is viewable on the [Road Maintenance Dashboard](#).

9 – 51.2
14 – 66.3
15 – 78.2
16 – 128.4
17 – 177.9
19 – 14
20 – 64.6
21 – 104.9
23 – 14.1
25 – 95.1
26 – 50.5
27 – 107.4
28 – 122.1
29 – 68.4
30 – 22
31 – 20.1
69 – 7.1

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

National/Local

- [Americans unite on public lands to protest mass federal firings](#)
Alaska's News Source

Wildland Fire Preparation

- [Exceptional warning for Alaska Wildfire Danger in early March](#)
Frontiersman
- [Firewise the Valley](#) – MSB Facebook post
- [Alaska DNR-Video-Low Snowpack Higher Risk for Fire](#) – MSB Facebook post

Fisheries

- [Alaska governor's fish farm gets chilly reception](#)
Alaska Undercurrent News
- [Top House Legislators reject fish farm plan](#)
Daily Sitka Sentinel
- [Pike use marine corridors to colonize new Alaska territory](#)
The Delta Discovery

Roads

- [Expect delays as Seward Meridian Parkway as roadwork enters final months](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Outdoors

- Winter Discovery Day returns with free Hatcher Pass outdoor fun
Mat-Su Sentinel

Education

- Mat-Su School Board aims to ban revealing, vulgar and racial student clothing
Alaska Watchman

Agriculture

- Dept. of Agriculture could face headwinds
Frontiersman

Opioid Use

- Alaska's rate of nonfatal opioid overdoses dipped late last year
Alaska Beacon

Libraries

The Mat-Su Borough Library Citizens Advisory Committee votes to review graphic Novel
KTNA

Iditarod

- Iditarod celebrates ceremonial start in Anchorage
Frontiersman

Future Events:

- Fri., April 4, 2025 at 1pm, Mat-Su Central School Ribbon Cutting, 8316 E Katherine Drive

Seasonal Weight Restrictions Historical Table

	Year	Date Begin Restrictions	Description	Updated Restriction Date	Description	Updated Restriction Date	Description	End Restrictions Date
2025	Core Area							
	Northern Area							
2024	Core Area	4/1/2024	50% all roads					5/23/2024
	Northern Area	4/17/2024	50% all roads	6/7/2024	100% except Oilwell			6/26/2024
2023	Core Area	4/12/2023	50% all roads	5/24/2023	Paved 100%-gravel @ 50%	6/7/2023	100% all roads	6/7/2023
	Northern Area	4/26/2023	50% all roads	6/7/2023	100% with exceptions			7/14/2023
2022	Core Area	4/11/2022	50% all roads	5/9/2022	100% all road	5/23/2022	100% all roads	5/23/2022
	Northern Area	5/9/2022	50% all roads	5/23/2022	100% except Oilwell			6/21/2022
2021	Core Area	4/16/2021	50% all roads	5/15/2021	100% with exceptions			5/25/2021
	Northern Area	4/25/2021	50% all roads	5/24/2021	100% with exceptions			6/4/2024
2020	Core Area	4/13/2020	50% all roads	18-May	100% with exceptions	5/29/2020	100% with exceptions	6/22/2020
	Northern Area	4/22/2020	50% all roads	5/18/2020	50% all roads	5/29/2020	100% except Oilwell	6/22/2020
2019	Core Area	3/25/2019	50% all roads	5/9/2019	With exceptions	5/30/2019	100% Except Papoose T	?
	Northern Area	3/27/2019	50% all roads				100% except Oilwell	?