



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Transit Funding Update: The Borough requested that the State Department of Transportation assist with a 90-day extension for transit funding to carry transit services within the Mat-Su Borough urbanized area from July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025. The Commissioner replied this week that the Department would support the request, giving the Borough the time needed to complete a contract award and for a provider to establish services under a Borough contract by October 1, 2025.

Code Compliance Summer Schedule: Code Compliance Officers will adjust their work schedules to enhance coverage and responsiveness on Saturdays during the summer months without needing overtime. This change will increase their availability to address calls and complaints more effectively. When time permits, they will coordinate with state partners—including the Alaska State Troopers (Fish & Wildlife) and Forestry—for joint patrols to support compliance efforts and community outreach.

Public Communications Improvements: The Borough is engaged in several efforts to improve communications with residents. A report detailing each project and initiative is located at <https://matsugov.us/docs/general/24699/Public-Communications-Improvements-Report-April-2025.pdf>.

Road Service Area (RSA) Operating Manual: An Assemblymember requested a copy of the RSA operating manual, which can be found at the following link: <https://matsugov.us/docs/general/24703/RSA-Manual-Final-4-16-24.pdf>. Public Works utilizes this administrative document to manage RSAs. It is not in Borough Code.

Glenn Highway Fire Hydrant: A member of the public provided testimony requesting a letter of support for a fire hydrant location along the Glenn Highway between Palmer and the Parks-Glenn interchange. The Manager will provide a letter of support to the Alaska DOT (ADOT) project team.

Parks Highway MP 128 Gravel: A member of the public provided testimony at the April 1 meeting. There are not a lot of gravel pits in the area. The status of Borough gravel pits at MP 131 and 126 are as follows.

MP 131 is an old pit used to build the Parks Highway. Public participation in the MSB NRMU Plan led to a prohibition on gravel extraction at MP 131. In addition, ADOT has identified the Borough land at 131 as essential for a future Parks Highway project, which will require all the remaining material on that parcel meaning MSB will not be selling any gravel from MP 131. MP 126 is another old pit used for the highway. A geotechnical contractor evaluated the remaining gravel at MP 126 and determined no gravel at that location is suitable for road construction. The State pit at MP 128 will be exhausted by the ADOT project that is driving this gravel sale, with an unmet requirement for an additional 90,000 cy remaining. The ADOT project driving this gravel sale is expected to result in cost savings to the road project. There is a winter trail, the Chulitna Bluff Trail, that crosses through the middle of the State pit at MP 128. This trail was intentionally routed through the State gravel pit suggesting that a gravel pit does not conflict with a winter trail. The MSB gravel sale avoids the winter trail. At some point in the future, expanding the MSB gravel site may require moving the trail, but only if the trail users no longer want the trail running through a gravel pit. A re-route for the trail around both gravel pits has been identified, and there will be ample time to move the trail if that is what is decided in the future. No impacts to the existing trail alignment are anticipated with the current MSB gravel sale. Gravel operations occur in the summer, when the winter trail is not intended to be used.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [Ice fishing resurgence](#)
Alaska Undercurrent News
- [Bill would change the makeup of the Alaska Board of Fisheries](#)
Frontiersman

Labor

- [Employer expo offers connection opportunities for job seekers](#)
Frontiersman

Education

- [Alternative high school diploma options for Mat-Su Central discussed at latest MSBSD meeting](#)
Frontiersman
- [Teacher lay-offs uncertain amid ongoing state budget debate](#)
KTNA
- [Mat-Su Borough School district to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed Mat-Su Central facility](#)
KTNA

Business

- [A new Mat-Su Library is looking for an entirely different kind of donation: tools](#)
Frontiersman

Non-Profit

- MSHF names Esther Pitts as President and CEO
Frontiersman
- MY House annual meeting highlights new construction, programs
Frontiersman

Future Events:

- Fri., Apr. 4, 2025 at 1pm, **Mat-Su Central School Ribbon Cutting**, 2055 N. Stringfield Road, Palmer
- Fri., Apr. 11, 2025 at 2pm, **Gateway Visitor Center Groundbreaking**, 4653 S. Glenn Highway
- Sat., Apr. 12, 2025 at 1pm, **Mat-Su YMCA Annual Shoots & Ladders Fundraiser**, Wasilla High School, 701 E Bogard Rd, Wasilla