ALASKA RAIL BELT REGIONAL COALITION CLEAN ENERGY GROWTH CLUSTER

Technical Assistance Grant Project and Budget Narrative

U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA)
FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Submitted by:

Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

Mat-Su/Fairbanks Rail & Natural Gas Coalition Members:

1. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT NARRATIVE

A. KEY TASKS

As the Lead Institution, Matanuska-Susitna Borough plans to utilize the Build Back Better Regional Challenge technical assistance award of $500,000 to further develop the Coalition's vision for an Alaska Railbelt Clean Energy Transportation Infrastructure Growth Cluster and prepare the component projects for a Phase 2 Application.

The three component projects are in varying stages of design, and the remaining field work, environmental reports and permitting, and final design will advance under contract with ARRC and IGU upon receipt of the requested Technical Assistance funding.

The work that is anticipated to be performed with the requested Technical Assistance funding consists of the following tasks and outputs:

i. Transportation Planning & Program Management: $58,500

- Oversight and schedule/deliverable/budget management for all specialty design and environmental subs.
- Primary liaison between Coalition Steering Committee and project team providing technical assistance.
- Overall transportation network planning including coordination, phasing, estimating, and scheduling of the component projects considering funding streams, environmental hurdles, other issues.
- Grant compliance and funding agency monthly/quarterly reporting.
- Ensuring all the various component parts come to the same level of project completion, appropriately phased, and interconnected, eliminating data gaps, and ready to support a strong application for construction funding.

ii. Rail Spur Component Project: $221,000

- Preliminary Surveying (contract) at three locations: $135,000
- Environmental (desktop review) at three locations: $36,000
- Engineering &Project Management to the 25-35% level: $50,000

iii. IGU Titan Plant Expansion Component Project: $266,500

- Update of 65% Design: $240,000
- Environmental Narrative: $16,500
- Economic Impact Study: $10,000

B. Timeline

The proposed scope of work will take place from the time of notification of award – December 2021, as noted by EDA – and be complete by March 15, 2022, upon submission of the Phase 2 application. This will give the Coalition enough time to complete the necessary design, permitting, and project development tasks outlined above to have all the information required for a Phase 2 application.

2. STAFFING PLAN

The tasks described in the scope of work above will be performed by engineering, environmental planners, economists, and surveyors under contract with members of the Coalition.

The Borough has also identified a Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer to serve as the central coordinator for the Coalition. Rustin Krafft, Purchasing Director at Matanuska-Susitna Borough, will take on the role. Mr. Krafft has been involved in the development of the Coalition and is well-versed in all aspects of the proposed projects. He will be essential to completing the tasks required of the Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer, including but not limited to:

- Serving as the central coordinator of new and existing resources to the benefit of regional competitiveness;
- Convening public, private, academic, and civic leaders around bottom-up competitiveness;
- Establishing a coordinated line of communication between regional growth clusters and EDA that accelerates collaboration and support; and
- Ensuring technical assistance provided by EDA and any partners are absorbed effectively within communities.

3. BUDGET NARRATIVE

In form SF-424A, *Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs*, the Lead Applicant (Matanuska-Susitna Borough) listed $546,000 as the total cost of the Technical Assistance to prepare the Coalition and the component projects for a Phase 2 Build Back Better Regional Challenge Full Application. The Lead Applicant will fund the estimated $46,000 over the $500,000 Technical Assistance grant cap. The intended use of the requested $500,000 in Technical Assistance funding are described below as they correspond with each line item on SF-424A.

Section A – Budget Summary

- Line 1: Economic Adjustment Assistance - CFDA 11.307
    - 1(e): $500,000 – federal funding for new projects
    - 1(f): $46,000 – non-federal funding for new projects
    - 1(g): Total $546,000

Section B – Budget Categories

- Line 6: Object Class Categories - Economic Adjustment Assistance
  - 6(f): Contractual – $546,000
  - 6(i): Total Direct Charges – $546,000

Section C – Non-Federal Resources

- Line 8(a): Grant Program – Economic Adjustment Assistance
  - 8(b): $46,000 – Applicant

Section D – Forecasted Cash Needs

- Line 13: Federal – $500,000
  - 1st Quarter: $363,500
  - 2nd Quarter: $136,500
- Line 14: Non-Federal – $46,000
  - 1st Quarter: $46,000
- Line 15: Total – $546,000
  - 1st Quarter: $409,500
  - 2nd Quarter: $136,500

Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

- Line 16 (a) Grant Program – Economic Adjustment Assistance
  - 16(b): Future Funding Periods – First – $500,000
- Line 23 (Remarks): The Lead Applicant will fund the estimated $46,000 over the $500,000 Technical Assistance grant cap.