



Agenda

City Council Work Session

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 965 8631 4135 Password: 792566

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 4:00 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- [a.](#) Homer Harbor Expansion Quarterly Report- Update on the study and funding/timeline status by HDR and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team members

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minutes)

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 4:50 P.M. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Work Session at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

HDR

Homer Harbor Expansion

Quarterly City Council Update



Key Events Completed

- Project Charter Complete
- USACE Design Charrette Complete
- Project Development Team (PDT) achieved Alternatives Milestone

Key Events Ongoing

- Community outreach and engagement ongoing
 - Managing feedback received
 - Promoting opportunities for public input and project status updates
 - Website continuously updated (Homerharborexpan.com)
 - Environmental Stakeholder Working Group regular meetings (led by USACE)
- Continued Development Baseline Conditions (Coastal Modeling Work)
 - One month of in-water data collection performed



Alternatives Update

- USACE determined 14 alternatives from the Design Charette
- Internal review of Alternatives
 - Completeness
 - Effectiveness
 - Efficiency
 - Acceptability
 - Implement ability
 - Satisfaction
- Future without project is an alternative and the basis for all comparisons
- Alternatives carried forward were presented to the USACE vertical team (USACE leadership)

Vertical Review Team

- Local USACE team presents problem and solutions
- Regional and Headquarters USACE leadership review for completeness
 - Approve alternatives
 - Provide feedback
- Vertical team okays the work to achieve the Alternatives Milestone



Overview of Alternatives



INITIAL ALTERNATIVES SCREENING: ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD

All US Army Corps of Engineers alternatives below assume that minimum local service facilities will be available as well as meet the needs for both small and large boats.



ALT	Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
			Meets the projects goals and objectives	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
1a	East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current + Future Needs	High	Medium	Medium	High	Yes	High
1b	East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Medium	High	Yes	High
1c	East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Medium	Medium	Yes	High
1d	East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Low	Low	No	Medium
2	East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current + Future Needs	High	Medium	Medium	High	Yes	High



Upcoming Public Scoping Meeting

- Saturday, September 23
- General Update on Study Progress
- Focus on Local Services Facilities
- Workshop Breakout Session
 1. Uplands Considerations & Aesthetics
 2. Resiliency & Sustainability
 3. Reduced Environmental Impact
 4. Balanced Harbor Design
 5. Business/Economic Opportunities



Study Scope and Cost Increases

- Scope increase above the original estimate
 - Geotechnical Data
 - Ship Simulation
 - Increased Environmental Public/Stakeholder Coordination
- 50-50 split between City and USACE
- Additional Cost to Study
 - Total \$1.15M (Above the \$3M)



Additional Geotechnical Scope

- Existing geotechnical data near site is limited and provides large uncertainty that could affect the economics of the study. Geotechnical data informs us of the:
 - Amount of expected initial and long-term settlement from installing large rubble mound features. Settlement has a significant impact on structure cost.
 - Need for pre-loading foundation. Construction action requires multiple mobilizations and has a large impact on project cost.
- Proposed Geotechnical Scope of Work (Work In Kind) Includes:
 - Initial geophysical survey (Fall 2023)
 - Review of results, plan for soil borings
 - Drill soil borings (Spring/Summer 2024)
- Additional Cost to Study (Above the \$3M)
 - Approximately \$800K (50-50 split between City and USACE)



Potential Funding Delay

- Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) provided Federal match for the General Investigation Study as a new start.
 - Intent was for the CDS to fund the full \$1.5M
 - The CDS budgeted \$300K in the President's FY23 Budget for the first year of the study
 - This initiated the new start
- The procedure for securing continuation funding was unclear and no funding was included in either the FY24 President's Budget or the FY24 USACE Budget. The study is one of many "orphaned studies" that are in this same situation.
 - The Study is not included the USACE FY24 Workplan and Budget
 - There are no planned additional CDS funds in the President's FY24 Budget.
- Potential for miscellaneous funds in USACE FY24 Unallocated Workplan Funds. These are nationwide funds and use of these funds are competitive among all other USACE unallocated needs.
- Lack of USACE funding will put the study on a pause of 6 to 18 months starting in January pending funding. The study will continue to advance at a restricted rate to preserve funds.
- City is working closely with 11 USACE to explore all avenues to bridge funding delay to minimize schedule and cost impacts.

Message from the USACE Alaska District Leadership

-Erin Stockdale, Chief of Planning



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Alaska District



Next Steps

- Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment are Advanced, as follows:
 - Alternatives are advanced to conceptual-design level based on functionality and other influences (e.g., reducing environmental and cultural impact).
 - Study reviews alternatives and compares them to the “without project” condition to determine the most advantageous alternative (including no action) that provides the most local, regional, and national benefits.
 - The Environmental Assessment (EA) runs parallel to the study. This effort coordinates the Tentatively Selected Plan with all of the regulatory agencies to determine viability of the concept and any measures that need to take place.
 - USACE environmental working group, comprised of Homer community members, is actively informing this process.



Timeline

- Second Public Scoping Meeting (HDR-led), September 23, 2023
- Third Public Scoping Meeting (HDR-led), TBD (January-February 2024)
- Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone: April 2024 (pending funding)

HDR