



Agenda

City Council Committee of the Whole

Monday, January 08, 2024 at 5:00 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: 953 057829 Password: 234696

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

CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- [a.](#) Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Recommended dates Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-021 from Councilmember Davis as backup.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Work Session at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. and a Work Session January 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: 08 January 2024
From: Council Member Davis

Summary Statement:

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT-PF) is preparing to begin construction this spring (2024) on a major rehabilitation of the Sterling Highway from Anchor Point to Baycrest (MP 157-169).

The highway rehabilitation will include “new roadway pavement, additional shoulder width and the addition of passing/climbing lanes, **replacement of bridges and culverts and stabilization of stream banks.**”

In a series of meetings with the Homer Trails Alliance (HTA) and Homer city staff, DOT-PF personnel have expressed willingness to consider including as part of the project a pedestrian underpass at the Diamond Creek culvert that would provide a connection between existing trail systems: the city’s Diamond Creek Recreation Area and Rogers Loop Trailhead on the east side of the Sterling Highway, and the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site trail system (“Diamond Gulch”) on the west side of the highway.

However, DOT-PF regulations preclude the department from expending funds on a trail underpass absent a commitment by municipal or other authorities to extend existing trails up to the proposed underpass.

In meetings with DOT-PF, city staff have indicated general support by the city for eventually connecting existing trails to a future pedestrian underpass, but they have been unable to point to any specific plans or funding for such work.

The Homer Trails Alliance has up to 60 volunteers, many highly experienced, who are willing to do much of the trail-building work that would be required – but before beginning any work (in coordination with city staff, of course) a detailed, professional design is required.

This ordinance aims to address DOT-PF concerns about the city's lack of a formal commitment to providing the connecting infrastructure for an underpass. By appropriating this relatively modest amount now for engineering services for a Preliminary Design, the city will be demonstrating in a tangible way its commitment to proceed with the work.

If this tangible commitment does secure agreement from DOT-PF to proceed with the underpass, the funds can then be expended on the design -- and once the design is completed and approved, HTA volunteers, in close coordination with City Staff, will be able to begin work on connecting trails.

Because DOT-PF will begin work on this project in a matter of months, time is of the essence.

Recommendation:

Introduce the ordinance today, so that a public hearing can be held in two weeks. Request that PARCAC review expeditiously, ideally at its next meeting in January, prior to expenditure of funds, to confirm whether HART Funds are available for the full amount, given other needs in the areas of trail construction and maintenance.

Attachments:

1. West Homer HTA Map
2. Area Map with Trail Distances

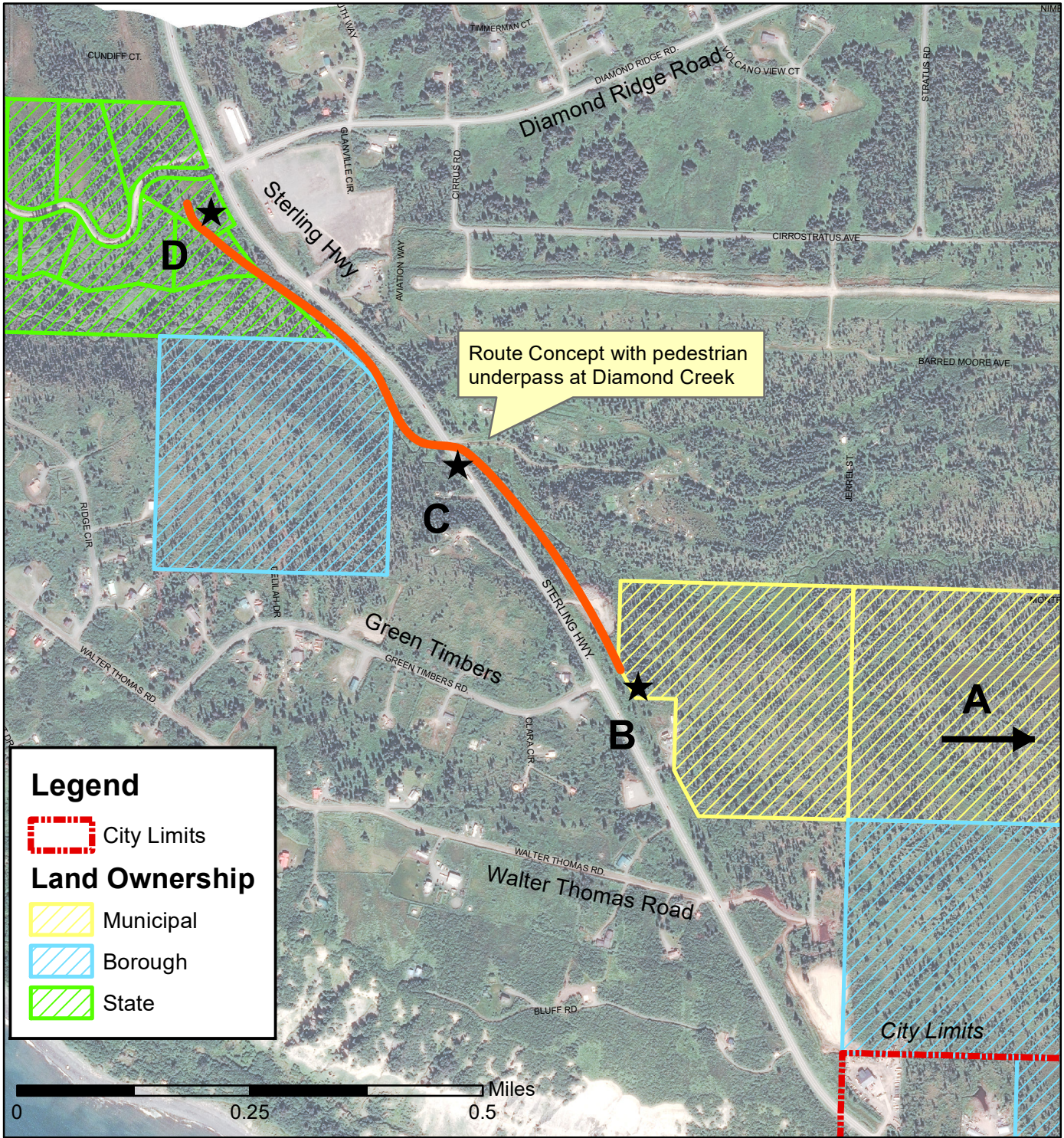
**CITY OF HOMER
FINANCIAL SUPPLEMENT**

PROJECT NAME	<u>Trails Engineering Design Study - DCRA</u>	DATE	<u>01/03/2024</u>
DEPARTMENT	<u>Council</u>	SPONSOR	<u>Davis</u>
REQUESTED AMOUNT	<u>\$ 25,000</u>		

DESCRIPTION	<p>The City Council approved the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Management Plan in May 2013. Development of DCRA is included in the City of Homer's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. This appropriation is to provide \$20,000 as well as a small contingency for a total of \$25,000 to pay for the development of a Trails Engineering Design Study in the DCRA.</p> <p>The HART Policy Manual identifies a process for nomination and selecting trails for funding by the HART Trails Fund. A Trails Engineering Design Study will provide design and engineering specifics regarding trails and facilities in the DCRA and assist the City of Homer in evaluating the best use of a large land parcel in west Homer. The City of Homer has the capacity with existing staff and community volunteers to develop public recreation multi use trails in the DCRA.</p> <p>State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT/PF) is preparing to launch a large Sterling Highway rehabilitation project in the west Homer area and has expressed willingness to construct a pedestrian underpass crossing the Sterling Highway if the City of Homer demonstrates commitment to developing trails and facilities in the DCRA connecting to this underpass area.</p>
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FUNDING SOURCE(S)	OPERATING	GF CARMA	GF FLEET CARMA	PORT RESERVES	WATER CARMA
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	HAWSP	HART-ROADS	HART-TRAILS	PORT FLEET RESERVES	SEWER CARMA
	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

FUNDING SOURCE 1: HART Trails (165)	FUNDING SOURCE 2:	FUNDING SOURCE 3:
Current Balance <u>\$ 1,090,060</u>	Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____
Encumbered <u>\$ 386,671</u>	Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____
Requested Amount <u>\$ 25,000</u>	Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____
Other Items on Current Agenda <u>\$ 0</u>	Other Items on Current Agenda _____	Other Items on Current Agenda _____
Remaining Balance <u>\$ 678,389</u>	Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____
FUNDING SOURCE 4:	FUNDING SOURCE 5:	FUNDING SOURCE 6:
Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____
Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____
Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____
Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____



Legend

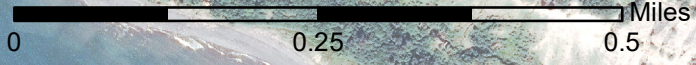
City Limits

Land Ownership

Municipal

Borough

State



City of Homer
 Planning and Zoning Department
 January 3, 2024

Area Map

Estimated New Trail Distances	
A-B: 3,100	City Owned Land
B-C: 1,600	Private Lands + DOT ROW
C-D: 2,500	Private, Borough, State Lands and DOT ROW

Disclaimer:
 It is expressly understood the City of Homer, its council, board, departments, employees and agents are not responsible for any errors or omissions contained herein, or deductions, interpretations or conclusions drawn therefrom.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Davis

ORDINANCE 24-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA AMENDING THE FY24 CAPITAL BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING \$25,000 FROM THE HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS (HART) TRAILS FUND TO CONTRACT ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS AND TRAILHEAD CONNECTING CITY OF HOMER DIAMOND CREEK PROPERTY TO THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY UNDERPASS.

WHEREAS, The City Council approved the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Management Plan in May 2013; and

WHEREAS, Development of DCRA is included in the City of Homer’s 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, This appropriation is to provide \$20,000 as well as a small contingency for a total of \$25,000 to pay for the development of a Trails Engineering Design Study in the DCRA; and

WHEREAS, A Trails Engineering Design Study will provide design and engineering specifics for the feasibility and route of a trail from City owned property at the Diamond Creek Recreation Area to the proposed highway underpass and to a point to be determined beyond; and

WHEREAS, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT/PF) is preparing to launch a large Sterling Highway rehabilitation project in the west Homer area and has expressed willingness to construct a pedestrian underpass crossing the Sterling Highway if the City of Homer demonstrates commitment to developing trails and facilities in the DCRA connecting to this underpass area; and

WHEREAS, The AKDOT/PF is interest in fostering a relationship with the City of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula Borough so that rights of way and trail easement issues can be resolved in the Sterling Highway underpass area; and

WHEREAS, HART Trails Fund has sufficient capital to fund this contract; and

WHEREAS, The data produced by such a study will be useful in future development of the DCRA.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

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46 Section 1. The Homer City Council hereby amends the FY24 Capital Budget by
47 appropriating \$25,000 to develop a DCRA Trails Engineering Design Study as follows:

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<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
165-XXXX	HART Trails	\$25,000

51

52 Section 2. A DCRA Trails Engineering Design adopted by Resolution. The DCRA Trails
53 Engineering Design Study shall include an analysis of right of way and other aspects of trail
54 connectivity in the project area.

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56 Section 3. This is a budget amendment ordinance, is temporary in nature and shall not
57 be codified.

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59 ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA this ____ day of _____, 2024.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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68 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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73 YES:

74 NO:

75 ABSTAIN:

76 ABSENT:

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78 First Reading:

79 Public Hearing:

80 Second Reading:

81 Effective Date: