



# Agenda

## ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 09, 2024 at 4:00 PM

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

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### Homer City Hall

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

### Zoom Webinar ID: 998 6324 0301 Password: 404451

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

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### CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** The Public is invited to comment on items not scheduled for Public Hearing. (3 Minute Time limit)

### RECONSIDERATION

### VISITORS

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2024

### REPORT(S)

- [A. ADA](#) Training and Community Conversation Event Report - Boardmember Venuti
- B. Community Awareness on ADA Compliance Project Status Update Report
- [C. Monthly](#) ADA Coordinator Report - April/May 2024  
Memorandum ADAB-24-003 from ADA Coordinator as backup

### PUBLIC HEARING(S)

### PENDING BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Capital Improvement Plan - ADA Harbor Ramp Lift Project  
Discussion with Port and Harbor Staff

### NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) City Trail Transition Plan Appendix Draft  
Memorandum ADAB-24-004 from ADA Coordinator as backup.

B. Amending the Board Meeting Time

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

[A.](#) City of Homer Newsletter for April 2024

[B.](#) City Manager's Report for City Council April 22, 2024

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** The public is invited to comment on any topic. (3 Minute Time Limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, JUNE 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-01 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 5:04 p.m. on February 8, 2024 from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD, GEISLER, LEPLEY, PARSONS, THORSRUD, SAFRA

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

SAFRA/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)**

**RECONSIDERATION**

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Unapproved Special Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023

GEISLER/PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2023.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

A. Memorandum ADA 24-001 from ADA Coordinator re: February Update

ADA Coordinator Krause provided a review of her memorandum for the Board. She reported the following:

- Listing of the Actions of the Council since the October meeting
- Due to her work schedule she was unable to complete the Trails Transition Plan but believes that she will have the first draft ready for the review of the Board

- Expressed concern on not receiving any applicants to fill the vacancy and it might have been too soon to have amended the meeting time to 4:00 p.m. as this puts constraints on persons who still work or may not have child care in the day time.
  - o Boardmember Geisler had some ideas on rallying some applicants so we can wait until the April meeting to determine what approach to use.
- City Council would like to have a joint worksession on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and requested the Board to check their schedules
  - o It was determined that they would not have a quorum for that date.
    - City Clerk moved the date to Monday, August 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.<sup>1</sup>
  - o Boardmembers were encouraged to think of recommendations or conversation that they would like to have with City Council on such things as:
    - how the Board and Council interact
    - Directing items from Council to ADA Board for review and recommendation such as projects related to access to city facilities, events or programs or should they be reviewed by the ADA Coordinator
    - Budgeting for ADA Compliance

ADA Coordinator Krause responded to questions regarding the following:

- area blocked off in the airport was for the new ADA Family Restroom
- ADA Transition Plan for Sidewalks that was facilitated by the Public Works Department if that document would be incorporated into the Transition Plan, to be determined, it was briefly noted so the document will be reviewed and maybe the Trails Transition Plan will be expanded to include sidewalks.
- ADA compliance with the proposed Harbor Expansion Project that project was far in the future and since this also included the Federal Government and State ADA Compliance would be very much on the minds of those entities but when the time came recommendations can be offered by this Board and the City ADA Coordinator.

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen responded to question regarding Pressure Reducing Station on Ben Walters Sidewalk project.

Chair Aderhold provided more input on where in the development process the Harbor Expansion was at the current time. She requested a volunteer to provide the report to Council, she reluctantly agreed to provide the report hearing no immediate volunteer from the remaining boardmembers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum ADA-24-002 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Bayview Park Plan – ADA Review

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<sup>1</sup> This date will be reported in the April ADA Staff Report to the Board.



Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen reviewed the memorandum provided and requested comments, suggestions or recommendations from the board. She noted that their recommendations would be incorporated into the plan to the limitations of the budget or phased in at a future date. Funding was coming from State leftover COVID funding, HART Roads and the Rotary Club, reporting that the City has received more than expected. She reviewed the proposed improvements, referring to the new site plan design provided by Corvus Design Landscape Architecture, and acknowledged that there was limited space but a permanent pad could be placed for a portable toilet which would make a nice feature at that park, the ADA parking space would be paved and connect to the proposed walkway that would enter into the park and curve up toward the northern edge along the western side of the park area, it would then turn into a mulched pathway across the play area which is currently gravel and that will be removed, proposed timber platforms for installation in phase two would provide play areas for children as a stage, timber bridge over the water which would act as a drainage feature. It was noted that the park was geared to the 5 and under crowd and as a local play park for young children, toddlers and infants.

Ms. Engebretsen facilitated discussion on the following:

- preference for a complete accessible walkway
  - o Use other ADA compliant materials than asphalt that may be cheaper
  - o Additional natural materials that would provide better traction and easier to maintain
  - o If you cannot do a fully accessible loop walkway then do not put it in and phase it in later
- All picnic tables should be accessible
- If the intent is to have an accessible park it should be accessible to all and all parts of the park should be accessible not just part
- It was appreciated that the Board was provided the opportunity to provide comment on the project

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. City Manager's Report
  - i. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 8, 2024
  - ii. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 22, 2024
- B. City of Homer Newsletter  
January 2024

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Pat Case, city resident, stated that he had a conversation with the State regarding the new audible intersection signals for Lake Street and Main Street intersections at the Sterling Highway and they have been purchased. The State has to schedule the electricians to do installation and they are at 50%

capacity, so he surmised it will probably happen this summer. Mr. Case expressed that he was really happy that the city will have two audible signals. He then reported that the City spent about \$60,000 to upgrade Lee Street and Fairview Avenue trails by widening and grading the trails flat and a resident with a son in a wheelchair was very elated. She had approached him while he was at Safeway stating that they can now walk from the High School to the Hospital, but now that its snowed it is not being maintained so it cannot be used by anyone unless they can follow the approximately one foot wide footpath that snakes through there. He requested that the city be informed that it needs to be cleaned up and maintained to allow winter use. Mr. Case then reported that the Storybook trail when the contractor was working on it created large divots in the space between the sign and the rock on the pathway, which filled with water then turned to ice. I believe that the contractor, East Roads Services should be contacted to fix that quagmire that they created last fall. He then requested to be a visitor at the next meeting so he could present his walking plan and whatever projects he was working on at the time.

Chair Aderhold noted that the Clerk will get him on the visitors list and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for providing the updates on things in the city that are working or not working.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that she was backing wearing dual hats again as they have an increase in advisory bodies but it is okay. It was nice while it lasted. She expressed it was nice to see everyone again and looks forward to another prosperous year.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Lepley expressed his apologies for being late to the meeting but he was having a time connecting and kept getting bumped off. He explained that he was able to reach out to the City IT Officer and he was able to walk him through it while vacationing in Colorado and he was currently in Arizona connecting to Alaska. He will be attending via Zoom again in April but will be back in Homer in May.

Boardmember Thorsrud commented that it has been an interesting half year since they last met, very happy to still be on this Board. She stated that her husband passed away in December and that it was somewhat expected and she will be undergoing foot surgery in March so would be looking for some assistance for approximately 9 weeks to help with picking up mail or taking her for a long road trip or whatever. So if anyone knew of someone looking for something to do she would appreciate the referral. Ms. Thorsrud expressed that she was doing okay, her daughters have been very helpful at the immediate expressions of condolences from the Boardmembers.

Boardmember Safra expressed her condolences and that Christine can count on her for some assistance. She expressed her appreciation for kicking it into gear for 2024 and it feels good working with the Staff, having Economic Development Manager Engebretsen present tonight discussing the park plan was wonderful. She opined that it was great to make it into an accessible park and hopefully they can do more accessibility into the planning as opposed to an afterthought of the plan. It is a

wonderful thing and why she serves on this particular Board. Ms. Safra expressed her appreciation to Mr. Case for attending the meeting.

Boardmember Parsons expressed his appreciation for Mr. Case reporting on those conditions and providing the examples and totally agreed with his statements. The winter maintenance has been coming up in circles that he travels especially noting that the State still plows snow onto the sidewalks rather than removing the snow. He has personally seen more students walking towards downtown from the various schools, and they are walking on the road since there is no way to walk on the sidewalk or side of the road due to the snow berms. Mr. Parsons expressed his appreciation for the viewpoints on the park plan and the perspective that came from the group.

Boardmember Geisler provided some information regarding the Independent Living Center for Ms. Thorsrud and wished her good luck on her surgery. She then acknowledged that she was the driving force to changing the meeting time back to 4:00 p.m. but would be amenable to changing it back if it helps them to fill the vacancy on the Board. She reported that she was speaking with the Clerk and knows of a couple of possible applicants so maybe they will be interested in applying before they amend the time again. She will send the Clerk an email regarding availability for a joint worksession.

Chair Aderhold reminded the Board about Accessibility of Ramps in the Harbor and requested the Clerk to invite a representative from the Port and Harbor about making the Harbor Ramps more accessible so they can have a project that is doable on the CIP and that will help keep accessibility in the forefront with the Harbor Expansion. She then announced that she was resigning from the Board as she had to divest some of herself from some things. Ms. Aderhold then noted that she is the last original member since it started and will remain very committed and aware of the group. She recognized the consideration and respectfulness given by each member. This group has done a lot of work and accomplished so much. She stated that there were two other Councilmembers that were committed to ADA issues.

The Boardmembers gave three cheers for Boardmember Donna Aderhold and all she had done for furthering ADA Compliance in Homer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Donna Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, ADA COORDINATOR/DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

April 6, 2024

To: ADA Advisory Board via: Renee Krause

From: Caroline Venuti, Board member

Re: Training and Community Conversation on April 4, 2024

I attended the Advocacy and Etiquette Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing presentation at the KBC campus. The instructor was a deaf instructor that communicated in American Sign Language and used interpreters so we, in the audience, could understand. This was a workshop that many supporters of the local deaf community attended. It was in conjunction with Hope Community Services and Rural Deaf Student Support. It was very beneficial to be reminded that Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do but hear.

A large segment of this conversation was focused on what the American Sign Language is and how it is used by Deaf people in America and Canada. The communication strategies were explained, and assistive technology was introduced. One feature that applies to the City ADA Advisory Board is that ZOOM has closed captions. This could be explored and used for all City Council room meetings to be in compliance with ADA.

A local Deaf person was in attendance, and I asked if he was able to vote. He explained through the interpreter that he had only voted once and that it was extremely difficult to know what to do with his ballot. More signage might be needed at that point in the voting booth area.

This was interesting and there are some simple, inexpensive areas that we, as a city, can improve.

*Caroline Venuti*

City Council Member and ADA Board Member



# AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## ADA COORDINATOR REGULAR REPORT FOR APRIL

**Item Type:** INFORMATIONAL  
**Prepared For:** ADA ADVISORY BOARD  
**Meeting Date:** MAY 3, 2024  
**Staff Contact:** RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR

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### Council Actions

City Council has been busy the first quarter of 2024! There has been changes to City Code to have the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission review Lease Applications and Renewals on the Homer Spit; Amended City Code to align the City Manager Duties to those described in State Statutes; Terminated the City Manager’s Contract early; appointed Melissa Jacobsen as Interim City Manager until a new one is hired.

An Ordinance will be introduced at the May 13, 2024 Council meeting to re-appropriate funds in the amount of \$98,714.98 that were designated for various ADA Improvements that were concluded within operational budgets or budgeted with other funds and this amount will be used for the Airport Terminal Sidewalk Improvement Project that will provide ADA compliant ramps to access the entrance doors and replace the sidewalk in the front of the airport.

### General Information

The City of Homer All – Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway won a State Grant, this funding is contingent on the Alaska STIP receiving Federal Highway Administration approval and City Council agreement to the terms required by the state in any grant agreement. Independent Living Center Staff worked with City Staff to develop the concept. See more details in the City Manager’s Report included under Informational Materials.

The Clerk’s Office will be quite busy over the next couple of months due to City Council and Rob Dumouchel parting ways and Melissa Jacobsen, City Clerk and Deputy Director of Administration will be filling the position of Interim City Manager. See Attached News Release.

The US Dept. of Transportation Issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding expansion of protection for airline passengers who use wheelchairs regarding damages and mandate annual, hands-on training for airline staff and contractors who physically assist passengers and who handle passengers’ wheelchairs. Allow passengers to choose the company that will repair or replace their wheelchair if it’s mishandled with the airline covering the costs and clarify that airlines must provide prompt, safe, and dignified assistance to all passengers with disabilities. If the airlines fall short of

these standards or mishandle a passenger's wheelchair or mobility device the proposed regulations would make it easier for DOT to hold the airline accountable for failing the passenger and also include any delays in returning a device or chair or the repair of damages a violation.

We have been actively soliciting for a new member to fulfill our vacancy and while we have received many applications to fill the vacancies on the other advisory bodies we have not had any interest. I believe that those persons who may be inclined to serve do not have the ability to meet during working hours. This is the basis for putting the item on the agenda and the Board can discuss the pros and cons of the issue under new business.

I just wanted to let everyone know that I am just shy of the credits to receive my certification as an ADA Coordinator and I will be able to add more alphabet soup after my name. It has been a long process but I have been able to find classes to fill the requirements online and for zero to minimal costs to the City of Homer.

### **Report to City Council**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday May 13, 2024. Volunteers anyone?

# City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan Project Nomination Form

## Project eligibility

- A. Does the proposed project represent a major, nonrecurring expense (\$25,000 or more for non-profit organizations; \$50,000 or more for government organizations)?  YES  NO
- B. Will the proposed project result in a fixed asset (e.g., land, major equipment, building or other structure, road or trail) with an anticipated life of at least two years?  YES  NO
- C. Will the project provide broad community benefit?  YES  NO

If you were able to answer YES to all three questions, please provide the following additional information:

ADA Advisory Board

Jim Lepley

Organization submitting the nomination form

Contact name

Contact phone number

1. Project title (Suggested heading in CIP):

ADA Accessible Platform Lift/Elevator Ramp 7 - Homer Small Boat Harbor

2. Project description and benefit. Describe the project in half a page or less, including specific features, stages of construction, etc. Explain how the project will benefit the Homer community.

This project would provide accessible access to the floating dock at Ramp 7 from the parking lot level during all tidal stage levels. Installation of the platform lift/elevator ramp system would provide safe, ADA access to one of Homer's premier assets - Kachemak Bay. It would benefit all who use the Harbor, workers, residents and visitors by providing ADA access no matter what the tide levels were for the day. It is believed that this addition to the Harbor would provide the highest level of amenities and a great source of pride for the community.

3. Plans and progress. Describe in one or two paragraphs what has been accomplished so far. This may include feasibility study, conceptual design, final design/engineering/permitting, fundraising activity, and total funds raised to date.

Two companies provide the equipment and provided conceptual design. It should be noted that the Canadian company has provided the Lift system at Pier 39 in San Fransisco.

Affordable Lifts 147 Mill Ridge Road, Suite 232 Lynchburg, VA 24502 (757)892-3665

Garaventa Lift 18920 36th Surrey BC Canada V3Z 0P6 (800)663-6556

4. Project cost:

A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = \$ 100,000.00

B. For construction projects, break out preconstruction costs (feasibility/design/permitting):

Preconstruction costs = \$ 15,000.00 Construction costs = \$ 85,000.00

5. Timeline: Indicate when you hope to complete each phase of the project.

Summer 2024/2025

6. Attach a quality digitized photo, drawing, map, or other graphic image of your project with your nomination form submission.





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# AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## Draft City of Homer Public Trail Audits as Appendix To ADA Transition Plan

**Item Type:** ACTION ITEM  
**Prepared For:** ADA ADVISORY BOARD  
**Meeting Date:** MAY 2, 2024  
**Staff Contact:** RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR

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### **Purpose:**

Review the information transferred from Board member notes provided from Audits conducted on August 17, 2023. This is the first draft of the document that will be an appendix to the main Transition Plan for the City.

### **Summary Background:**

Following is the draft of the City maintained Trails Transition Plan Appendix. The Board did not review the Calhoun Trail or Karen Hornaday Park Trail last summer and might want to make a plan to perform that sometime in June or July.

Another consideration is to review and include the Storybook Trail on the Library property as it was to be constructed as ADA compliant and we can review to assure that it does comply. I can check on the status of that project and include in my report for the next meeting.







We could use a few additional pictures of the items that are not shown. The pictures are handy as it defines the location of concern for staff so they know exactly what or where needs to be corrected. It would be great to get a few volunteers to walk the trails to take additional pictures to use as examples.

### **Recommendation:**



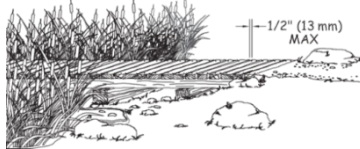


Boardmembers volunteer to walk the trails on the list and get additional pictures






Discuss and determine when the Board would like to try to schedule site visits for the Calhoun and Karen Hornaday Park Trails to conduct the transition reviews. Staff will then coordinate with Park Maintenance Staff and the Board agreeable dates.

Board review the draft and make any additional recommendations to staff.




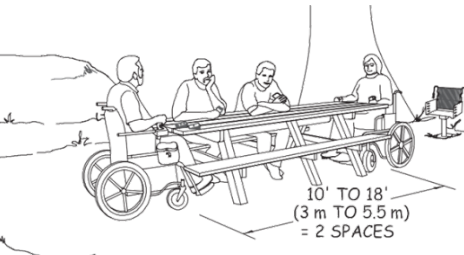
		Lucky Shot Trail Part of HAPP Loop	Karen Hornaday Park Trail	Beluga Slough Trail	Poopdeck Trail
 <p><b>Surface - 1017.2</b> The surfaces of trails, passing spaces, and resting intervals must be firm and stable. A firm trail surface resists deformation by indentations. A stable trail surface is not permanently affected by expected weather conditions and can sustain normal wear and tear from the expected uses between planned maintenances.</p>				<p>Entrance from Beach Access has hidden, by vegetation, drop off before boardwalk</p> <p>Monitor fasteners to make sure they do not protrude</p> <p>Charles Way access requires mitigation. Stability is questionable.</p>	<p>Recently resurfaced on lower section and in good shape</p> <p>Grubstake to Klondike - Subject to flooding &amp; icing presenting slippery surfaces during rain, snow and freeze/thaw cycles</p>
 <p><b>Clear Tread Width - 1017 .3</b> The clear tread width of trails must be a minimum of 36 inches (figure 2). The 36-inch-minimum clear tread width must be maintained for the entire distance of the trail and may not be reduced by gates, barriers, or other obstacles unless a condition for exception does not permit full compliance with the provision.</p>		<p><b>Lower Portion</b> 36" tread width can easily increase to 81" currently obstructed by grass and weeds that are mown.</p>		<p>Boardwalk width is adequate, but vegetation encroaches on sides, recommend more frequent maintenance</p>	<p>8 feet wide between base of trail and library trail up to Grubstake Tread width Grubstake up to Klondike average 24 inches, variable recommend widening to minimum width if not more</p>
 <p><b>Passing Spaces [1017.4]</b> A trail tread width less than 60 inches does not permit two people using mobility devices to pass each other. Consequently, where the tread width is less than 60 inches, passing spaces must be provided at intervals of at least 1000 feet. Where the trail is heavily used or the trail is not at the same level as the adjoining ground surface, such as a bridge crossing a water course, dip or similar obstruction, increasing the frequency of passing spaces or widening the tread width to a minimum of 60 inches provides greater access. People using mobility devices also use passing spaces to turn around.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing spaces must be a minimum of 60" x 60"</li> <li>• 2% (1:48) to 5% (1:20) max slope</li> </ul>				<p>Passing Spaces are compliant, refer to Bishop Beach Park Plan</p>	




		<b>Lucky Shot Trail</b> <b>Part of HAPP Loop</b>	<b>Karen Hornaday Park Trail</b>	<b>Beluga Slough Trail</b>	<b>Poopdeck Trail</b>
 <p><b>Tread Obstacles - 1017.5</b>  A tread obstacle is anything that interrupts the evenness of the tread surface. The vertical alignment of joints in concrete, asphalt, or board surfaces, as well as natural features, such as tree roots and rocks, within the trail tread can be tread obstacles.</p> <p>The limit on the height of tread obstacles on trails, passing spaces, and resting intervals is based on the surface material used. When the trail surface is constructed of concrete, asphalt, or boards, tread obstacles cannot exceed one-half inch in height at their highest point. When the trail surface is constructed of materials other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, tread obstacles are permitted to be a maximum of 2 inches high. Frequent tread obstacles and tread obstacles that cross the full width of a trail tread can make travel very difficult for people using mobility devices. Where possible, separate tread obstacles by at least 48 inches, particularly when the obstacles cross the entire tread width. This separation allows people using mobility devices to fully cross one obstacle before confronting another.</p>		Upper Section Has large rocks sticking up		Fasteners on boardwalk need to be maintained and monitored on a consistent basis as they prevent trip hazards. Requires coordination with Public Works projects. Gravel portion of trail at end of Bunnell requires new gravel and compaction, slope has changed with water flow; trail sections have no side rails/boards to define width and address drop off; gravel is uneven	Between Grubstake and Klondike surface has larger rocks exposed, presents trip hazard
 <p><b>Openings - 1017.6</b>  Openings are gaps in the surface of a trail. Gaps, including slots in a drainage grate and spaces between the planks on a bridge or boardwalk (figure 7), that are big enough for wheels, canes, or crutch tips to drop through or become trapped in are potential hazards.</p>  <p>Openings in the surfaces of trails, passing spaces, and resting intervals must be small enough so that a sphere more than one-half inch in diameter cannot pass through. Where possible, elongated openings should be placed perpendicular, or as close to perpendicular as possible, to the dominant direction of travel.</p>				Boardwalk at Charles Way intersection has dropped and gap between plates has expanded beyond 1/2 inch Raise lower section to eliminate gap using one of several methods	

		<b>Lucky Shot Trail</b> <b>Part of HAPP Loop</b>	<b>Karen Hornaday Park Trail</b>	<b>Beluga Slough Trail</b>	<b>Poopdeck Trail</b>
 <p><b>Running Slope - 1017 .7 .1</b></p> <p>Running slope, also referred to as grade, is the length-wise slope of a trail, parallel to the direction of travel.</p> <p>Trails or trail segments of any length may be constructed with running slopes up to 1:20 (5 percent). To accommodate steep terrain, trails may be designed with shorter segments that have a running slope and length, as shown in table 2, with resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment.</p>		<p><b>Lower Section</b></p> <p>47 yards 1° grade Hazel Trail to boulder 26.5 yards at 2° grade Hazel Trail to “top” of steeper grade 11.5 yards 3° grade from boulder A to B 23.7 yards 4° grade A to C, 40 yards 5° grade Edge at rip rap fill, 26 yards 6° grade B to C</p> <p>11.4% over 4 foot length with level</p> <p>Top of trail 17.7% over 5 feet</p> <p>Recommend moving top of trail to make less steep</p> <p><b>Legend</b>  Boulder = A  Rip Rap = B  Line of Sight = C</p>			<p>Boulders at base of trail to Library Trail intersection 4° grade over 21.7 yards.</p> <p>50 yards 2° grade between Library Trail &amp; Grubstake</p> <p>17.7 yards 4° grade, 30 yards 4° grade between Grubstake &amp; Bonanza * exceeds ADA maximum 13.6% grade</p> <p>Bonanza to Klondike also exceeds grade maximums</p>
 <p><b>Cross Slope - 1017 .7 .2</b></p> <p>Cross slope is the side-to-side slope of a trail tread. Some cross slope is necessary to provide drainage and to keep water from ponding and damaging the trail surface, especially on unpaved or natural surfaces.</p> <p>When the trail surface is constructed of concrete, asphalt, or boards, the cross slope must be no steeper than 1:48 (2 percent). When the trail surface is constructed of materials other than asphalt, concrete, or boards, cross slopes no steeper than 1:20 (5 percent) are allowed when necessary for drainage.</p>		<p>Lower Section 0.6 ° to 2.9° (measured in degrees)</p> <p>Upper Section 0.4% (measured as percentage)</p> <p>Cross Slope is outside allowable limits</p>		<p>At the beginning of the trail head, there is significant slope on the edges (in the dirt) that could use bumpers to prevent falls</p>	<p>2.3% cross slope in section between base of trail and &amp; Library Trail</p>



		<b>Lucky Shot Trail</b> <b>Part of HAPP Loop</b>	<b>Karen Hornaday Park Trail</b>	<b>Beluga Slough Trail</b>	<b>Poopdeck Trail</b>
 <p><b>Protruding Objects - 1017 .9</b></p> <p>Objects that protrude into the trail clear tread width, passing spaces, and resting intervals can pose hazards to people who are blind or have low vision. Constructed elements on trails, resting intervals, and passing spaces must comply with the technical requirements for protruding objects in section 307 of the ABA Standards. Signs and other post-mounted objects are examples of constructed elements that, if located incorrectly, can be protruding objects.</p> <p>The technical requirements for protruding objects do not apply to natural features, such as tree branches, rock formations, and trails that pass beneath rock ledges or through caves because these are not constructed elements (figure 10). Clearing limits for trail construction and maintenance usually require that brush, limbs, trees, and logs be cut back a foot or more from the edge of the trail. However, trail maintenance cycles may be several years for some trails, and vegetation may encroach on the trail in the interim between cycles. While it may not always be possible to control vegetation, it is always possible to place constructed features where they won't pose a hazard to hikers who are blind or have low vision.</p>		<p>None on lower Section as long as alders are maintained</p> <p>Upper Section Alders need to be regularly maintained</p>		<p>Trees protrude over trail</p> <p>City to trim branches to appropriate height considering winter snows</p>	<p>Alders beginning to encroach between Library Trail &amp; Grubstake</p> <p>Grubstake to Klondike forested, requires regular maintenance of the trees</p>
 <p><b>Trailhead Information Signs - F216 .13 and 1017 .10</b></p> <p>All hikers need trail information to make informed decisions. For example, hikers want to know which trail is most appropriate for the amount of time they have available, the people in their group, and the type of hike that best suits their needs or desires. Information about the accessibility of a trail enables people with disabilities to decide whether the characteristics of the trail are suited to their abilities. When this information is available on Web sites and in printed materials, it allows all hikers, including people with disabilities, the opportunity to understand the possible challenges of the trail before arriving at the trailhead.</p>		<p>There is no signage</p>		<p>No signage about trail information at any trailhead.</p> <p>No path of travel to interpretive sign at the trailhead – Listening for the Rain</p>	<p>Needs Signage at the trailhead on Hazel Avenue.</p> <p>Wayfinding Signage in works should comply with ADA requirements.</p> <p>Signage on portion of trail by Grubstake on land owned by the KHLT</p>
 <p><b>Outdoor Constructed Features at Trailheads - F247 .3 .1 and 1011</b></p> <p>When outdoor constructed features, such as benches, picnic tables, or trash and recycling receptacles, are provided at trailheads, at least 20 percent, but no less than one, of each type of element provided must comply with the applicable technical requirements for the element. The technical requirements for outdoor constructed features are discussed in the section of this guide on outdoor constructed features.</p> <p>Toilet and bathing facilities, parking facilities, and drinking fountains must comply with the applicable sections of the ABA Standards.</p>		<p>Picnic Table at intersection with Library Trail not accessible with boulders, coaxial cable; power line guy wire as barriers to access</p> <p>Hazel Avenue needs curb cut on west side at Library entrance</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bishop's Beach no handicap parking at Beluga Slough Trailhead</li> <li>Recommend including ADA required # of spaces during park planning.</li> <li>2. Level 4 grade at trailhead approach becoming overgrown – USFWS to maintain</li> <li>3. Transition to metal boardwalk in not level – refer to measurements from previous review</li> </ol>	<p>Bonanza at trail is a steep grade and recommend regrade to regulations for neighborhood use</p>

		Lucky Shot Trail Part of HAPP Loop	Karen Hornaday Park Trail	Beluga Slough Trail	Poopdeck Trail
<p><b>Outdoor Recreation Access Routes at Trailheads - F247 .3 .2</b>            Trailheads are usually accessed by vehicle rather than by hiking. At least one outdoor recreation access route (ORAR) must connect the following at trailheads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accessible parking spaces or other arrival points</li> <li>■ The starting point of the trail</li> <li>■ Accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within the trailhead</li> </ul> <p>The technical requirements for ORARs are discussed in the section of this guide on ORARs. ORARs provide greater accessibility than a trail because areas served by ORARs are typically more developed than trails.</p> <p><b>Existing Trailheads - F202 .3</b></p> <p>At existing trailheads, if elements or spaces are altered but the circulation path to the altered space or element is not changed, the circulation path does not have to be altered to comply with the technical requirements of ORARs. If the circulation path at a trailhead is altered and a condition for exception does not permit full compliance with a specific provision in the technical requirements for ORARs, the circulation path must comply with the specific provision to the extent practicable. Additional information on the conditions for exceptions is provided in the section of this guide on the conditions for exceptions.</p>				Add ramp  4. Trailhead by pavilion has large drop off and is not accessible from pavilion or parking lot (See Bishop’s Beach Park Plan)  5. Access at Charles Way requires maintenance and signage, transition is not accessible	
 <p><b>Outdoor Constructed Features Along Trails - F247 .5</b></p> <p>When outdoor constructed features, such as benches (figure 11), picnic tables, or trash and recycling receptacles, are provided along a trail, at least 20 percent, but no less than one, of each type of element provided at each location on the trail (other than within camping and picnic facilities and viewing areas, which have their own scoping requirements for outdoor constructed features) must comply with the applicable technical requirements for the element, regardless of whether the trail complies with the technical requirements for trails. The technical requirements for outdoor constructed features are discussed in the section of this guide on outdoor constructed features.</p>					

3 **Condition Exceptions**

4 1 Compliance Not Practicable due to terrain.

5 2 Compliance cannot be accomplished with prevailing construction practices.

6 Does not require the use of construction equipment or methods other than typically used by most contractors or designers faced with similar projects in the area.

7 3 Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the setting or facility.

8 This condition recognizes that public lands provide a wide variety of recreational experiences, from highly developed areas to wilderness areas that appear unchanged from primeval times and provide opportunities for people to experience primitive  
9 and/or challenging conditions.

10 4 Compliance is limited or precluded by any of the following laws, or by decisions or opinions issued or agreements executed pursuant to any of the following laws:

- 11 ■ Endangered Species Act
- 12 ■ National Environmental Policy Act
- 13 ■ National Historic Preservation Act
- 14 ■ Wilderness Act
- 15 ■ Other Federal, State, or local law, the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archaeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features.

16 **DEFINITIONS**

17 Trailhead A trailhead is defined as an outdoor space that is designated by an entity responsible for administering or maintaining a trail to serve as an access point to the trail. The junction of two or more trails or the undeveloped junction of a trail and a road  
18 is not a trailhead. For example, if a trail crosses the road, the crossing does not automatically become a trailhead.

19 Trail is defined as the following: Designed for the “recreation experience”

20 Does not connect elements and spaces on a site

21 Generally includes a trailhead

22 Has limited to no transportation function

# CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

VOL. III - ISSUE VIII | APRIL 2024



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### NEW DESIGNS FOR HOMER LIBRARY CARDS

April 7 - 13 is National Library Week, and we're celebrating big at Homer Public Library! In honor of this, we are unveiling three new library card designs. Choose from Forest, Mountains, Tidepool, or stick with the Classic design when you sign up for a new library card! If you'd like to replace your current card, the cost is \$5.

The new cards were designed by local artist Rachel Tussey and complement her existing artwork on BOB the Bookmobile.



- New Designs for Homer Library Cards
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Clerks
- Community Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Come support the Friends of Homer Library for a Celebration of Lifelong Learning event at the Homer Public Library. Enjoy appetizers from Tickled Pear, live music, a trivia tree, a silent auction, entertainment, awards and desserts from BB's Bakery.

**When:** Saturday, April 20, at 6:00 pm

**Where:** Homer Public Library, 500 Hazel Ave.

**Tickets:** \$40, Available at the library's front desk starting April 1

### Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

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# LIBRARY EVENTS

## VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to [libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming](http://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming).

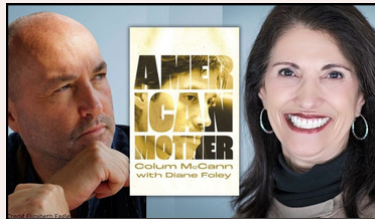
### April 2 at 10 am

The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us—A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator **Paula J. Johnson**



### April 9 at 10 am

From Murder to Atonement—Confronting My Son’s Killer with **Diane Foley & Colum McCann**



### April 17 at 4 pm

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with **Xochitl Gonzalez**



## SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



### Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

### April 9: Donna Aderhold

### Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



Check out more library programs and events



**Homer Public Library**  
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180  
[circ@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:circ@ci.homer.ak.us)  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library)



# COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

## 32nd Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival May 8 - 12, 2024

Experience the joy of Spring's return and the migration of birds along the picturesque shores of Kachemak Bay during the Shorebird Festival.



Homer stands out as one of Alaska's premier locations for witnessing the awe-inspiring sight of thousands of shorebirds.

The four-day Festival embodies a cherished Homer tradition, celebrating the birds' return with many enriching activities. From seminars and workshops to children's activities and guided tours, there are birding opportunities suited for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned enthusiast, there's something for everyone.

Explore further and secure your spot for festival events by going to [kachemakshorebird.org](http://kachemakshorebird.org).



[Register and Buy Tickets](#)



[Download a Program of Events](#)

## Homer Steps Up - May 1 - 28, 2024 - FREE Event Organized by South Peninsula Hospital

The City of Homer is proud to co-sponsor the Homer Steps Up challenge, again! You too can register in groups to help our community stay active and healthy.

**Registration opens April 1st** for this FREE event running from May 1st to 28th, open to all residents of the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Form teams of 5-25 members and track your steps using a fitness tracker, smartphone, or manual entry.

Walk to Win! Weekly drawings for prizes, end-of-challenge cash prize drawings, and \$500, \$300, or \$200 to donate to your team's local non-profit of choice!



For more information and to register, visit:



[homerstepsup.com](http://homerstepsup.com)



# COMMUNITY RECREATION

## INLET WINDS COMMUNITY BAND FREE CONCERT

A performance you don't want to miss! The Inlet Winds Community Band invites you to the Mariner Theater at Homer High School on Saturday, April 13 at 7pm for a FREE performance.

Under the guidance of Co-Directors Mary and Eric Simondsen, local adult and high school musicians have dedicated themselves to months of practice to prepare a captivating program of songs.

**When:** Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm

**Where:** Homer High School, Mariner Theater

**Fee:** FREE

### Program

**Fanfare -HAYABUSA** -Satoshi Yagisawa

**Watchman Tell Us of the Night** -Mark Camphouse

**Rollo Takes a Walk** -David Maslanka

-Intermission-

**Armenian Dances** -Loris Chobanian

**The Rowan Tree** -Randall Standridge

**March from Symphonic Metamorphosis** -Paul Hindemith



## SUCCESSFUL PICKLEBALL INJURY PREVENTION CLINIC

Preventing injury in pickleball is important to enjoy the game and participate in the sport for the long term.

Staff from our local Summit Physical Therapy generously volunteered their time and expertise to instruct community members on injury prevention while playing pickleball. A total of 18 individuals attended the 2-hour clinic at the HERC gym and found it very beneficial. Summit Physical Therapy brought their own equipment and led participants through dynamic warm-ups, targeted stretches, agility exercises, and much more. They also provided portable cold wrap machines, kinesiology tape, massage guns, and other tools.



Pickleball Injury Prevention Clinic Attendees with Summit Physical Therapy Staff

A big thanks to Summit Physical Therapy, and we look forward to offering more preventive sessions in the future.

# CITY HALL

## SISTER CITY ART EXHIBIT AT THE PRATT MUSEUM



2024 marks the City of Homer's 40th Anniversary as a Sister City with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. Established April 7, 1984, Teshio and Homer have enjoyed a profound camaraderie and sharing of families, student exchanges, ideals, and memorabilia.

As part of our community's 40-year celebration, eighteen pieces of art that Teshio has generously gifted the City over the years will be on display in the Main Lobby of the Pratt Museum from **May 1 to September 7**.

This exhibit provides an opportunity to learn more about our Sister City, foster a stronger connection with Teshio, and view these cherished pieces that are part of the City of Homer's Municipal Art Collection.

A First Friday Exhibition will be held **Friday, May 3rd** at 4:00 pm and will be free to the public.

More info on the [Sister City Program](#) and the [Municipal Art Collection](#) can be found on the City of Homer website.

## TOMODACHI TAIKO DRUMMING EVENT

Mark your calendars for an exciting event as part of the 40th Sister City Anniversary celebrations! The City of Homer and the Alaska Japanese Club are thrilled to invite the Tomodachi Taiko Association to bring the rhythms of Japanese Taiko drumming to Homer High School's Mariner Theater on **May 4th**. Join us for a performance featuring 12 drummers from Anchorage and Japan and immerse yourself in the peaceful yet powerful beats of this ancient art form. Additionally, students from the Alaska Japanese Club will showcase their own skills in special Taiko performances throughout the day.

The Japanese Club students have been working hard to create drums since September. They have made 30 cardboard drums, a 50-gallon Taiko drum, and 30 pairs of Taiko drum sticks called bachi. They have been rehearsing twice a week to prepare for this special event. The students will also perform on **April 19th** for the Jubilee Youth Performing Arts Show at Homer Mariner Theater.



Taiko Drum



Japanese Club students with homemade Taiko drums participating in Homer's Winter Carnival

Japanese Taiko drums are traditional percussion instruments that originated in Japan centuries ago. They are characterized by their large size and deep, resonant tones, which are produced by striking the drumheads with wooden sticks called bachi. Taiko drumming is not just about the music; it's a cultural art form that embodies strength, unity, and spirited performances.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to learn how to build Japanese Taiko drums at our drum making workshop on **Friday evening, May 3rd**! Stay tuned for further event details, which will be posted on the City of Homer website and social media. Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the energy of Taiko drumming like never before!



# CLERKS

## HOW TO RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE EVENT

Are you interested in running for public office this year? Or thinking about it for future elections? Maybe you are just curious about the process?

**On Thursday, April 4th, there is a free event on How to Run For Elected Office.**

The event will feature a presentation on how to run for elected office and a Q&A session with a panel of past elected officials. Application and filing materials will be on hand for review. Oh, and don't forget, there will be refreshments too!

**When:** Thursday, April 4th, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Where:** Homer City Hall, 491 E Pioneer Avenue

**More Info:** Facebook [@kpvotes](#), Instagram [@kpvotes](#), email [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com), or call 907-299-2517

Thanks to Kenai Peninsula Votes and the League of Women Voters on the Kenai who are sponsoring this event with the City of Homer.

### Why is it important to run for Public Office?

Participation in public service is essential for a thriving society and community. Decisions and policies shape what our society looks like now and in the future.

### It's important for these reasons:

#### Representation:

It ensures diverse voices are heard and represented in decision-making.

#### Policy Impact:

Candidates shape policies that affect every aspect of society.

#### Driving Change:

Running empowers individuals to champion causes and drive meaningful change.

#### Accountability:

Elected officials are held accountable for their actions, fostering transparency.

#### Inspiration:

It inspires future generations to engage in civic leadership and public service.

#### Community Resilience:

Builds community engagement and resilience in addressing challenges.

#### Preserving Democracy:

Demonstrates a commitment to upholding democratic values and principles by choosing our leaders through voting.

Running for public office is not just a personal endeavor but a vital civic duty that shapes the future of our communities and nation.

**How to Run For Elected Office**  
City - Borough - State

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the Kenai, Kenai Peninsula Votes, and the City of Homer

**Thursday, April 4th 2024**  
Homer City Hall  
491 E Pioneer Ave.  
from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**What's covered during the event:**

- Presentation on how to run for elected office
- Materials will be available for reference
- Q&A with panel of past elected officials
- Refreshments
- Networking period (time permitting)

For more information: 907-299-2517 - [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## HOMER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REWRITE



Community members noting on maps areas of importance.

The City of Homer launched its 2018 Comprehensive Plan at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center on March 28th, drawing a full house of 75-80 participants.

With support from the Anchorage-based consulting group Agnew::Beck, the city is updating its plan, sparking enthusiastic engagement from community members who offered valuable feedback. Shelly Wade, a principal/owner from Agnew::Beck, led discussions on walkability, recreational access, protection of green spaces, and preserving Homer's "small town vibe". Attendees stressed the importance of youth involvement in the rewriting process, as they will be the ones living in Homer in 20 years.

Moving forward, the consulting team plans to continue community engagement through surveys and future visits. Your engagement and ideas got the planning team off to a great start. Let's keep it rolling!

**For ways to get involved, contribute your ideas, and to receive updates, go to [homercomplanupdate.com](https://homercomplanupdate.com).**

## PORT & HARBOR U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT VISIT

Homer's Port and Harbor welcomed four Midshipmen students from the Annapolis, Maryland U.S. Naval Academy for a three-day field study on harbor design. The students traveled to Homer as part of their capstone senior design project as ocean engineers. The team selected the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) as their final project and reached out through the HHE website to ask questions prior to scheduling the visit. In addition to meeting with our Port and Harbor team and HDR engineers, the students also gathered site-specific data, such as soundings to measure ocean depth, sediment samples, and information on other site characteristics.

The Ocean Engineering Program at the Naval Academy guides students to explore coastal, offshore, underwater, and environmental engineering to address challenges in ocean environments. Students design structures for shore protection, harsh ocean conditions, underwater living (submarines), underwater working systems (cables, pipelines, shipwrecks, etc.), while also tackling pollution and resource management issues.

Homer feels honored to have been chosen by these young professionals to support their studies. Our harbor's captivating and distinctive geography offers a truly special learning environment. We hope that collaborating with these students during their visit will lead to innovative methods that will benefit ours and many other harbors in the future.



Left to Right: Midn 1/C Tanner Cummins, Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden, Midn 1/C Daniel Gantz, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Midn 1/C Michael Lancaster, Harbormaster Matt Clarke, Midn 1/C Daniel McMann

**Click here to learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy Ocean Engineering Program:**



### Ocean Engineering Major

Ocean Engineering page for Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering at USNA.edu. Updated Tue Feb 20 14:46:20 EST 2024.

 NavalAcademy



# HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

## STUDY UPDATE



Great news for our community!

Federal continuation funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation were included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Presidential budget, which was released to Congress on March 11. Though confirmation of the funding is contingent upon approval from Congress during the budgetary process, this is very positive news. The announcement underscores the USACE's commitment to advancing the General Investigation, as well as the support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

The General Investigation study allows us to identify sustainable solutions to meet the escalating demands of maritime transportation across the region and address safety concerns, while balancing environmental stewardship and economic vitality.

The US Corps of Engineers project team will be doing environmental fieldwork this summer utilizing remaining Fiscal Year 2023 study funds. The team's first visit will be in April to coincide with an ecological modeling workshop they are also hosting as part of the study. The City is presently contracting for geophysical survey work to map beneath the seafloor in

the area proposed for the harbor expansion. The survey is expected to begin later in the summer. Completing these two study components will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume in full.



Keep engaged with the study at [www.homerharborexpan.com](http://www.homerharborexpan.com)

## ALASKA DOT HOMER AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is currently engaged in a construction project to rehabilitate and improve Homer Airport runways and taxiways with the goals of extending the service life of the airport, improving safety, and improving airport perimeter access for airport security, maintenance, wildlife hazard management, and airfield rescue operations.



View closure schedule and details about the project on the City of Homer webpage, DOT&PF Homer Airport Improvement Project Info:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/airport/dotpf-homer-airport-improvement-project-info>

Stay up to date with DOT&PF's Airport Improvement Project. You can provide public comment via their online comment form.



[Homer Airport Improvements - Public Involvement](https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml)

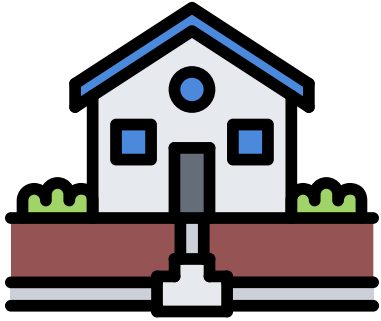
<https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml>



# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM CLEANING

The City of Homer's Water and Wastewater Collections Department needs your help to keep the wastewater collection system clean and operating smoothly! Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to regularly clean their water and sewer lines to prevent pipe damage and clogs, ultimately saving money on costly repairs. Cleaning out these systems pushes debris into the wastewater collection system, which can then be maintained by the City and transported to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



All drainage lines from homes or businesses are linked to the City's collection system. The system consists of water and sewer main pipes, manholes, cleanouts, siphons, lift stations, and key structures, organized into five routes, each receiving annual cleaning. Hydro Jetting is the method used for cleaning, which is a safe and eco-friendly technique utilizing pressurized water and air to eliminate undesirable substances from the system.

Whether from sinks, showers, or toilets, every drain connects to the sewer lines. By maintaining and regularly inspecting systems in your home or business, you contribute to the city's efforts to ensure everything runs well.

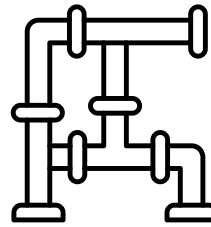


### What you can do:



#### Adopt Good Habits

- Dispose of grease in the trash.
- Use drain strainers.
- Run water regularly.
- Check for leaks.
- Maintain garbage disposals.
- Mindful flushing.
- Use quality cleaning materials.



#### Routine Maintenance:

- Schedule routine inspections every two years.
- Avoiding tree root intrusion on sewer and water lines.
- Install backwater prevention valves.
- Maintain septic systems.

## CITY OF HOMER AWARDED EPA AQUARIUS RECOGNITION

The City of Homer is incredibly proud to announce it has been awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) AQUARIUS Recognition for the Seawall Armor Rock Installation Project. The AQUARIUS Recognition Program nationally recognizes Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funded projects for exceptional focus on six main areas. Homer was chosen for its "Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency."

In May 2021, the City completed a significant erosion defense project partially funded by Alaska's DWSRF Program. Focused on reinforcing an existing seawall with armor rock, the project aimed to combat accelerated erosion along the coastline that threatened property and utility infrastructure. Shoreline erosion rates estimated from historical air photos from 1951 to 2002 averaged about 3.5 feet per year. The seawall constructed in 2004 helps protect properties from erosion.

By enhancing the wall's defense with the installation of armor rock, the project ensures stability to utilities infrastructure, including wastewater in the area, and critical drinking water that supplies residents and businesses in Homer. Overall, the City of Homer took decisive action to prevent water supply failures that would have affected residents, tourists, retail businesses, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal, the fishing industry, hotels, and outdoor enthusiasts that use the Spit as an access point to the wonders of Kachemak Bay.

This award reflects Homer's commitment to environmental stewardship and use of innovative designs to protect our shores from further erosion.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HVFD FIRE ACADEMY

Have you ever considered a career as an emergency responder? The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is looking for dedicated volunteers who are eager to learn.

Be sure to register in time to **attend training from March 25th through July 20th.**

This program equips participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Training will consist of fundamental Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II techniques, as well as Hazmat awareness and operations. Recruits gain hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced instructors.

For those looking to start a career as a volunteer firefighter or EMT, this training will provide a pathway for you to make a meaningful impact on your community.

Stop by the Homer fire station located at 604 E. Pioneer Ave., or call 907-235-3155 for more information!



## 2024 Fire Academy Take The Next Step

Kick start your career as an emergency responder by becoming a volunteer firefighter or EMT.

---

Receive free training when you become a volunteer. Stop by the Homer fire station or call 907-235-3155 for more information! Stop by today.

**Starting March 25th - July 20th**  
HVFD Fire Academy will consist of Firefighter I training, Hazmat awareness, Hazmat operations, and Firefighter II training.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK DAY APRIL 27, 2024

For over ten years, the HPD has participated in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Last year, over 22 tons of medications were collected from the Pacific Northwest states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho) alone.

The take back program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs while also educating the general public about the potential for medication abuse. We encourage all families, friends and neighbors to participate. Unused prescription drugs can end up in the wrong hands, which can be dangerous and tragic.

At the Homer Police Department, every day is Take Back Day. There is a permanent collection box in the front entrance lobby. Help keep your family and community safe by turning in unneeded medications for proper disposal.







In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is raising awareness of the danger of distracted driving. Did you know that distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,522 people in 2021 alone? By being aware and changing habits while on the road can save you a ticket and can save lives.

According to the NHTSA site, "Distracted driving comes in many forms: adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. But it's cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — that is the most common distraction. Texting, which includes messaging, is considered the most dangerous type of distracted driving because it combines visual, manual and cognitive distraction."



### Here are some simple tips for a safer ride:

- Need to text? Pull over in a safe spot. No text or notification is worth risking a life on the road.
- Designate a passenger as your "designated texter" for calls or messages.
- Avoid scrolling through apps while driving. Put your phone out of reach until you arrive.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR MOOSE ENCOUNTERS



It's that time of year when moose often come to graze where snow has melted. Keep these safety tips in mind if you encounter moose while out on walks, on the trail, in your neighborhood, or while driving.

The Alaska Highway Safety Office offers the following tips to help avoid a deadly confrontation with moose:

- Never feed a moose
- Give moose at least 50 feet. If it doesn't yield as you approach, give it the trail.
- If a moose lays its ears back or its hackles (the hairs on its hump) rise, it's angry or afraid and may charge.
- Moose kick with their front as well as hind feet so we suggest not confronting them directly.
- Don't corner moose into fences or houses.
- If a moose charges, there are few options available to you but it has been suggested by many others to simply get behind a tree. A theory stands that you can run around the trunk faster than the gangly moose.
- Never get between a cow and her calf.

# MEET THE STAFF

## Work Anniversaries

Thank you to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment, and service to the City of Homer!

### March

Names	Dept.	Years
Matt Clarke	Port	23 Years
Elton Anderson	Port	18 Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	17 Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	10 Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	9 Years
Elizabeth Fischer	Finance	7 Years
Kurt Read	Port	7 Years
Matt Smith	Library	6 Years
Matt Steffy	Planning	6 Years
Amber Baldus	Fire	2 Years
Bill Jirsa	IT	1 Year
Michael de la Torre	Police	1 Year
Kane Graham	Police	1 Year



Roslyn Kriegh

Meet **Roslyn Kriegh** who joined the Port & Harbor in March as Port Property Associate.

Roslyn was born and raised on Kodiak Island. Her husband, Thomas Vanek, is from Ninilchik. They have spent the last 7 years in California and Washington state pursuing education and supporting their extended family.

Homer is where they always planned to return, she says, “near our families and in the state we adore. We couldn’t imagine a better place to establish our futures.”

Although Roslyn is still settling into her position, she has been enjoying her interactions with everyone and their excitement for the upcoming season! Outside of work she has several hobbies including a passion for ornithology, animal husbandry, freshwater aquariums, and chickens. Ask her to learn more!

## Welcome to the Team!



We want to extend a warm welcome to **Bradley Gullikson**, who joins the Homer Police Department as a Police Officer. Bradley comes to us from the Alaska State Troopers and brings valuable knowledge and experience to the team.

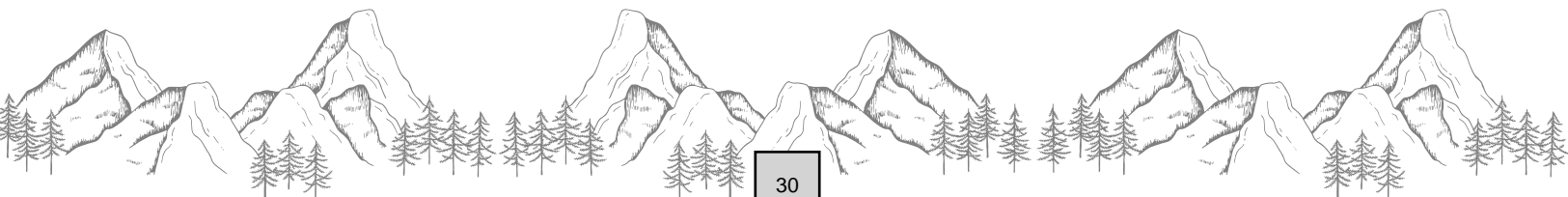


Stephen Overdorf

**Stephen Overdorf** joins Public Works as a full-time Equipment Operator Apprentice. Stephen has worked the last two seasons as a winter temp, working with Airport Building Maintenance.

Stephen came to Homer from Kenai in January of 2000 and was actually a part of the crew that built the Fish Factory in Homer. In his spare time, he works with his sawmill and maintains his hobby farm with goats and a garden.

When asked about what he likes most about Homer, he says, “It’s the best place on earth!” We can agree on that.





# CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

**Mayor** - Ken Castner (2024)

## City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

## City Staff Leadership

Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy  
Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Director of Community Development

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Dan Kort, Public Works Director

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

## Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

# MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Fireweed Wall Mural by Josh Nordstrom - City Hall



Pocket Pebble by Melisse Reichman -  
Boathouse Pavilion on the Spit

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/  
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)

## STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to [cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council](http://cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council) to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 1  | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 3  | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 3  | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 9  | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting             |
| 11 | 4:00 pm | ADA Advisory Board   |
| 15 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 16 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting                               |
| 17 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 17 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 18 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 24 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting                    |
| 29 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |



## JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: [cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs](http://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs)

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**  
The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at [citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us).

## City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603  
907-235-8121

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, Interim City Manager  
DATE: April 20, 2024  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for April 22, 2024 Council Meeting

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### **East Bunnell/Charles Way Water and Sewer Special Assessment District**

Attached to this report is a memorandum from Finance Director Fischer regarding the East Bunnell/Charles Way Water Main Extension ADEC Loan and the City owned lot in that district. We anticipate having the final assessment roll completed in the very near future and scheduling a public hearing prior to certifying the final assessment roll. Historically, city parcels are not included in the SADs and we don't use the ADEC loan programs for the City's portion of the project costs. In this instance the city parcel was included and it impacts the subsidy amount that was awarded for the water portion project. Director Fischer's memo provides more specifics for Council to consider prior to the public hearing and presentation of the final assessment roll.

### **City Grant Activity Update**

Attached is an update to City Council on grant related activities with the official award letter from Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities informing the City that the Homer All-ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway project was selected for award under the Transportation Alternatives Program.

### **City of Homer Partners with Kenai Peninsula Borough on Safety Plan**

The City of Homer joins partner cities Kenai, Soldotna, Seward, Seldovia and Kenai in working with the Kenai Peninsula Borough on the first regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). KPB had 238 fatal or serious injury accidents between 2017 and 2022; the CSAP will help us understand causes and contributing factors to these accidents and identify ways to improve safety. This is a federally funded project with a modest local match from participating communities. Community Development Director Julie Engebretsen is the City of Homer's representative on the project. She is sharing the lessons learned from Homer's draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan and will connect southern peninsula transportation professionals to the project as it moves forward. The project will include a series of public meetings, surveys and focus groups. A completed plan will allow the borough and partner cities to apply for grants that they would otherwise not be eligible for. The first public meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 5-7PM at Homer High with a short presentation at 5:30. See the project flier for a QR code to the survey, and additional project and meeting details.

### **Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium**

City Engineer Leon Galbraith attended two days of the Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium hosted in Anchorage April 2-4 by the Alaska Municipal League. On day one, he attended sessions in the Water and Wastewater track, including Financing Options sessions. He heard presentations on available grant funding

opportunities from representatives at EPA, ADEC, and USDA. On day two, he attended the Transportation Equity Considerations sessions and heard from folks at DOT&PF and AML about things like the “complete streets” program. Afternoon sessions attended were the Housing Summit that covered local actions and land transfers, trusts and collaborations and lots of talk about upcoming DNR land conveyance opportunities. Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll attended the Plenary Session on April 4, which included keynote addresses from Senator’s Sullivan and Murkowski and Representative Peltola and several panel discussions on IIJA application and implementation lessons learned and strategic planning for upcoming opportunities. On Friday, April 5, Ms. Carroll attended the Alaska Grant Symposium hosted by Senator Lisa Murkowski. There she met with staff from each member of Alaska’s Congressional Delegation, and representatives from the Denali Commission, FEMA Region 10, the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, AK Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Economic Development Administration, Alaska Municipal League and the U.S. Department of Energy.

### **No Mow May**

The Homer Beekeepers Association reached out to the City about supporting No Mow May around the City. According to beecityusa.org, No Mow May was first popularized by an organization based in the United Kingdom, but is now gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is to pause mowing during the month of May, allowing flowers to bloom in your lawn to help early season pollinators, like bees, butterflies, and other insects. Late winter and early spring is a time when floral resources are often limited. In 2020, residents of Appleton, Wisconsin, an affiliate of Bee City USA, became energized about No Mow May and they convinced their City Council to suspend their weed ordinance for the month of May. Over 435 registered property owners participated that year. Empowered by their success in 2020, the Appleton Bee City committee spread the word and attracted even more participants in 2021, and in 2022 it spread to communities across the country. While not mowing in May isn’t right for everyone or every region, the campaign can be a good tool for getting new people involved in pollinator conservation by mowing less and adding flower species to their grass.

### **Attachments:**

- Memorandum from Finance Director Fischer re: East Bunnell/Charles Way Water Main Extension – ADEC Loan Update
- Grant Activity update
- Homer Harbor Expansion monthly report
- Memorandum from City Planner Foster re: Community Rating System Program Status
- KPB Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Flyers
- KPEDD Industry Overview Forum April 25<sup>th</sup> Event Flyer
- Electronic Recycling April 27<sup>th</sup> Event Flyer
- No Mow May Flyer



# MEMORANDUM

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## East Bunnell/Charles Way Water Main Extension – ADEC Loan Update

**Item Type:** Informational Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** April 16, 2024  
**From:** Elizabeth Fischer, Finance Director  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, Interim City Manager

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### **ADEC LOAN BACKGROUND:**

Resolution 22-018 authorized the City Manager to apply for two ADEC loans connected to the East Bunnell/Charles Way Special Assessment District (SAD). The ADEC loan in question is the Drinking Water Fund loan in an amount not to exceed \$473,787 authorized for project water improvements. Principal Forgiveness in the amount of \$225,690 was allocated to the Drinking Water Fund loan.

### **ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS:**

Resolution 22-023 estimated the cost of the water improvements to be \$525,637. A Principal Forgiveness Subsidy of \$225,690 gets applied to this loan, therefore reducing the estimated costs to \$299,947. Property owners are responsible for 75% of this overall estimated cost (\$224,960). The remaining 25% (\$74,987) is funded by HAWSP. The amount of the ADEC loan was estimated at \$450,650 (\$224,960 property owner share + \$225,690 Principal Forgiveness Subsidy).

### **ISSUE:**

Homer City Council has set a precedent that the City only loans for the property owner share and also excludes any City parcel(s) from that share. The City owns a substantial parcel within this particular district. The project questionnaire was submitted to ADEC including the City's parcel in the property owner share and, therefore, is a factor in determining the principal forgiveness subsidy amount.

If the City parcel were removed from the loan amount, there would be financial impacts on all property owners within the district. The ADEC subsidy is proportional based on loan amount and would be reduced if the City opted to remove its owner share, thus increasing the assessment amount applied to each property owner. The City has the option to pay off the City's owner share after the loan has been finalized. This would save the City interest expense and still allow for maximization of the subsidy.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

Administration will bring forward a resolution in an upcoming City Council meeting confirming the assessment roll. It will be presented with the City parcel included as part of the ADEC loan. City Council and the public will have the opportunity to comment on this at the upcoming public hearing.

Grant Activity Update 4/15/2024

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
<b>Slope Stability- Erosion Mitigation Program</b>						
Kachemak Drive Peatland Water Quality Improvement (Kahcemak Sponge)	\$4,388,791	NOAA Habitat Conservation KBNERS led/City partner	\$ 1,188,275.00 (land acquisition)	\$ 418,000.00 (land acquisition)	Submitted Awarded 4/1/2023 Award Executed	UAA accepted award; sent sub-award agreement to City Ord 23-46 to accept sub-award introduced 6/26/23 Grant is for Kachemak Drive peatlands acquisition
Beluga Slough Stormwater Treatment System	\$ 690,000.00	Alaska Clean Water Actions	\$ 153,307.00	\$ 107,182.00	Submitted 11/9/2022 Awarded 3/1/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-16(S)	City Council approved grant agreement Ord City costs in-kind + eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
<b>Transportation</b>						
Transportation Planning	\$ 960,000.00	Safe Streets For All KPB Applic/City partner	\$ 960,000.00	\$ 23,000.00 (in-kind)	Award announced KPB executing grant agreement	Application approved Reso 22-063
Non-Motorized Trans Network (REACH Project)	\$ 2,050,000.00	Fed FY24 RAISE Planning Grant	\$ 2,050,000.00	\$ -	Submitted 2/28/24	FY23 RAISE REACH application made to Sec. of Trans- portation Desk; not awarded by a Merit application and encouraged to apply in FY24. Reso 24-007 approving HDR grant writing assistance Reso 24-018 Supporting FY24 application
Homer All-Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway	\$ 3,900,000.00	State of AK Transportation Alternatives (TAP) (AK DOT&PF manages/constructs )	\$ 3,432,000.00	\$ 468,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round: Public Evaluation Board (PEB) TAP funding awarded	HAPP sections in PW's 5-year road plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved PEB Review 12/202024 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Main Street Rehab/ Sidewalk South	\$ 4,200,000.00	State of AK Community Transportation Program (CTP)	\$ 3,696,000.00	\$ 504,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round Not funded	Main St in 7-10 year horizon in PW Road Plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved PEB Review 12/202024 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
<b>Port &amp; Harbor</b>						
Float Systems 4 & 1 Replacemen	\$ 59,289,547.00	FY24 Fed Port Infrastructure Development Projects (PIDP)	\$47,135,190	\$ 12,154,357.00 (20.5% match)	Grant deadline 5/10/24	FY23 applic made it to Secretary's desk but was not funded Added to draft STIP as illustrative project HDR application support Ords 24-12 & 24-13 Revenue bond or TIFIA loan for match
		Municipal Harbor Grant			Grant for construction only must complete design to apply	If funded, leverages State match to lower City match on Federal PIDP Grant
		Denali Commission Grant Design/Env Review/Permitting	\$ 1,102,500.00	\$ 1,102,500.00	Grant deadline 4/12/24 Submitted	Can be used as non-Federal Match for PIDP application
		FY25 CDS (Appropriations) Req Design/Env Review/Permitting	\$ 1,543,500.00	\$ 661,500.00	Submission deadline 3/22/2024 Submitted 3/22/2024	

designates grants awarded

designates grants NOT awarded

designates updates since the 02/22/24 grant update



Grant Activity Update 4/15/2024

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Fish Grinding Building Replace & Drainage Improvements	\$ 374,978.00	ADFG Dingle-Johnson	\$ 250,000.00 (preliminary)	\$ 93,744.50 (preliminary)	Submitted 7/12/2022 Prelim award announced 7/7/2023 \$41,950 awarded for Phase 1	\$100,000 allocated in FY23 City Capital Budget; for final design and partial match; additional match to meet Ordinance 24-16 accepted grant
Building Code Development	\$ 587,500.00	State BRIC Sub-Grant (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities)	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 117,500.00 (covered by State of Alaska)	Submitted 12/21/2022 Accepted for further review Awaiting decision	Council Approved application Reso 22-086 As a sub-applic State covers local match 1st Req. for Information received from FEMA 4/10/24
Parks & Recreation						
Bayview Park Renovations	\$ 139,230.00	State of AK Healthy & Equitable Community Round 2	\$ 74,919.00	\$ 52,314.00 Addl redistribution funds requested	Submitted 4/24/2023 Awarded 5/8/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-36	Council Approved Resolution 23-031 \$12,000 donation from Kach Bay Rotary Additional funds from HART approved in COH Cap budget
HERC HazMat Assesment & Remediation		EPA Multipurpose Brownfield Federal Discretionary Grant  AK DEC Brownfields Assesment & Cleanup (DBAC)	\$1,000,000		Submitted 11/13/2023  Submitted 2/15/2024	Council Approved Resolution 23-117  DBAC Services pending EPA review
Utilities - Infrastructure						
Spit Road Erosion Mitigation	\$ 1,812,052.00	Federal PROTECT Grant  FEMA BRIC Grant	\$ 1,812,052	-	Submitted 8/18/2023 Awaiting Decision  Submitted	Application requested planning funds for Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation. City of Homer is project sponsor, but if awarded City will enter MOU with DOT to implement grant activities AML submitted application with State of AK State pays 25% match; Project programmed in STIP
	\$ 1,794,420	FY25 CDS (Appropriations) Req	\$ 1,414,420	\$ 380,000 (State of AK match)	Submitted 3/22/2024	Awaiting decision
Raw Water Transmission Main		FEMA Disaster Mitigation	\$ 1,988,650 (direct project costs)	-	Submitted 1/30/2020 Obligating Award Document Recd 11/3/2023	4/11/23: Responded to latest FEMA request for information 5/2/23: Congressional Delegation approved award 7/11/23: FEMA Received Period of Performance Waiver 11/13 Ordinance to accept the grant approved 4/1/2024 Grant Kick-off Meeting with DHS&EM
A-Frame Water Transmission Main		CDS (Appropriations) Request	\$ 794,360	\$ 264,787 (AK Revolving Loan Funds)	Submitted 3/22/2024	Awaiting Decision
IT - Communications						
FY22 Cybersecurity (City-wide Cybersecurity Assessment and Remote Backup System for Cybersecurity Response & Recovery)	\$ 252,794.00	AK Division of Homeland Security FY22 State & Local Cyberscurity Grant Program	\$ 50,000	-	Submitted 8/31/2023 Award announced	\$50,000 awarded for Cybersecurity Assessment Ord 24-15 accepted award
FY22-23 Cybersecurity - Remote BU system, SIEM, Cybersec Plan	\$ 328,943	AK Division of Homeland Security	\$ 328,943	-	3/8/2024 Grant Deadline Submitted 3/8/2024	Awaiting Decision
Public Safety Communications (HPD Backup Repeater & Radio Equip HVFD APX-600 Radio Upgrade)	\$ 119,046.56	AK Division of Homeland Security FY23 State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$ 88,196.56	\$ -	Submitted 1/31/2023 Prelim Award 9/18/2023 Obligating Award Document Recd	11/13 Ordinance 23-55 to accept approved





3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 112500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500  
Main: 907-465-4070  
Fax: 970-465-6984  
dot.alaska.gov

April 16, 2024

Jenny Carroll, Special Projects, City of Homer  
491 E Pioneer Ave, Homer, AK, 99603, USA jcarroll@ci.homer.ak.us  
(907) 435-3101

Dear Ms.Carroll,

On behalf of The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Evaluation Board, I am pleased to inform you that your project nomination has been accepted for award.

STIP ID: 34426      Project Title: Homer All-ages and Abilities Pedestrian pathway (HAAP)

The purpose of this project is to combine two high priority sidewalk projects to connect two major gaps in Homer’s non-motorized pathways which significantly improves pedestrian access to everyday destinations, key facilities and recreational opportunities.

<b>Federal Award:</b>	\$3,486,787
<b><u>Required Match:</u></b>	\$ 388,713
<b>Your total project cost:</b>	\$3,875,500

The federal-aid agreement requires federal and matching shares as percentages. **The matching share for this project is 10.03%.** The City of Homer is expected to maintain this matching share through the life of the project, including if the total project cost changes. A match waiver, signed by the Commissioner, is required for any decrease to the matching share and may come with penalties as described in 17 AAC 05.175(l).

This project has been programmed into the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with the design and construction phases in the STIP programmed years (2024-2027) Funding is expected to be available for the construction phase in FFY27 These dates are subject to change pending project development and funds availability.

Next steps:

- DOT&PF Central Region Field Office and the City of Homer will work together to prepare the Project Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) detailing match and maintenance commitments and roles and responsibilities.
- The City of Homer must provide matching funds including contingency (by phase) to DOT&PF.
- After these steps are completed (signed MOA is in place; project is in an approved STIP; matching funds received by DOT&PF), the project may begin.

Please expect to hear from your Regional Planner, Joselyn Biloon, to initiate the Project Agreement within the next few weeks. You may contact your planner at [Joselyn.biloon@alaska.gov](mailto:Joselyn.biloon@alaska.gov) or 907 269-0508.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben White". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ben White, Central Region Planning Chief  
Project Delivery Division

cc: Karin McCoy, Acting STIP Manager, DOT&PF  
Sara Lucey, Planning Manager, DOT&PF  
Region Pre-construction Engineer, DOT&PF  
Judy Chapman, Deputy Director of Planning, Project Delivery Division, DOT&PF  
Ben White, Central Region Planning Chief, DOT&PF



# MEMORANDUM

## Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

**Item Type:** Informational Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** April 17, 2024  
**From:** Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

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**Purpose:** This memorandum provides the Homer Harbor Expansion Study monthly written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

### The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT)

Continuing study activities:

- April 8-10, the USACE PDT conducted their first iteration of fieldwork for the Homer Navigation Improvements Study. They documented species in/around the study area and conditions with a CTD (Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth), conducted eDNA sampling, beach seining, and bottom trawling. They plan to do more fieldwork throughout the summer of 2024 to characterize the area in order to further enhance the understanding conditions in and around the potential harbor expansion footprint, and compare findings with existing data to see if there is any variance in findings. The fieldwork was focused on the potential footprint currently under consideration, an area on the east side of the Homer Spit. Photos taken of the fieldwork below are Fern Spaulding and Christopher Hoffman who work with Kayla Campbell in Environmental Resources.



- Homer Small Boat Harbor Vessel Economic Survey is still routing through the US Office of Management and Budget for approval.

- Hosted a two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop (April 11-12) at the Islands & Oceans Visitor Center with Todd Swannack, the co-lead of the USACE Engineer Research Development Center's (ERDC) Ecological Modeling Team. Todd worked with local scientists and members of the Environmental Stakeholders Working Group to identify inputs for developing a modeling tool that will help analyze proposed Homer Harbor Expansion designs.



**HDR – Owner Representative:**

- Provides communications support on an as-needed basis.
- Preparing to issue geotechnical contract for Phase 1 of geotechnical work: sub-bottom profiling.
- KC Kent participated in the Ecological Modeling Workshop.

**City of Homer staff:**

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meeting with HDR.
- Prepared and sent letters to USACE General Gibbs and Col. Palazzini; distributed response letter (attached to this Memo) to Mayor and City Council.
- Communications Coordinator Carroll disseminated State Legislative and capital budget updates to City Council and Port & Harbor Advisory Commissioners.
- City Council HHE Champion Lord, Special Projects Coordinator Carroll, Interim City Manager Jacobsen, Port Director Hawkins, and J&H Consultants met with Senator Gary Stevens on Monday, April 8 and learned that additional state match funds for the HHE GI are included in the Senate version of the Capital Budget.
- Made travel arrangements are coordinated appointments for a trip to Washington DC to meet with Alaska's Congressional Delegation and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.
- Harbormaster Matt Clarke presented an overview at the Ecological Modeling workshop; Public Works Aaron Yeaton participated in the workshop.
- Port Director Hawkins presented to the State House Transportation Committee on April 18.
- Ongoing Communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the Homer Harbor Expansion website, the City's monthly newsletter, the City of Homer Facebook and Instagram pages and through HHE email subscriber list as needed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational Only.





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**573 BONNEY LOOP, BUILDING 525**  
**FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440**

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Ken Castner  
Mayor of Homer  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624

Dear Mayor Castner:

Thank you for your letter and the partnership between the City of Homer and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is encouraging to hear about the enthusiasm and support from the maritime community, the City of Homer, and the wider community.

As you know, \$800,000 was included in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 in the USACE Civil Works Program for the on-going feasibility study for Homer Navigation Improvements, Alaska. This marks another significant step in our collective efforts along with the approval I made recently for the work-in-kind for the project.

This project remains a high priority for USACE. Early February, I met with the Congressional Members in Washington DC and emphasized this project is high visibility with senior leaders in USACE. On April 9, Colonel Palazzini and his staff are scheduled to meet with the Congressional Members to also emphasize the importance of this project.

I acknowledge your interest and desire to have the project included in the Fiscal Year 24 Work Plan but cannot guarantee or speculate on specific allocations at this time. As you noted, Congress recently signed the Energy and Water Appropriations Act and additional funds for the Work Plan would come from this appropriation. Across the nation, allocations for projects are being considered for the limited amount of funds that were made available. The Alaska District will continue to keep you apprised of the funding status as information becomes available.

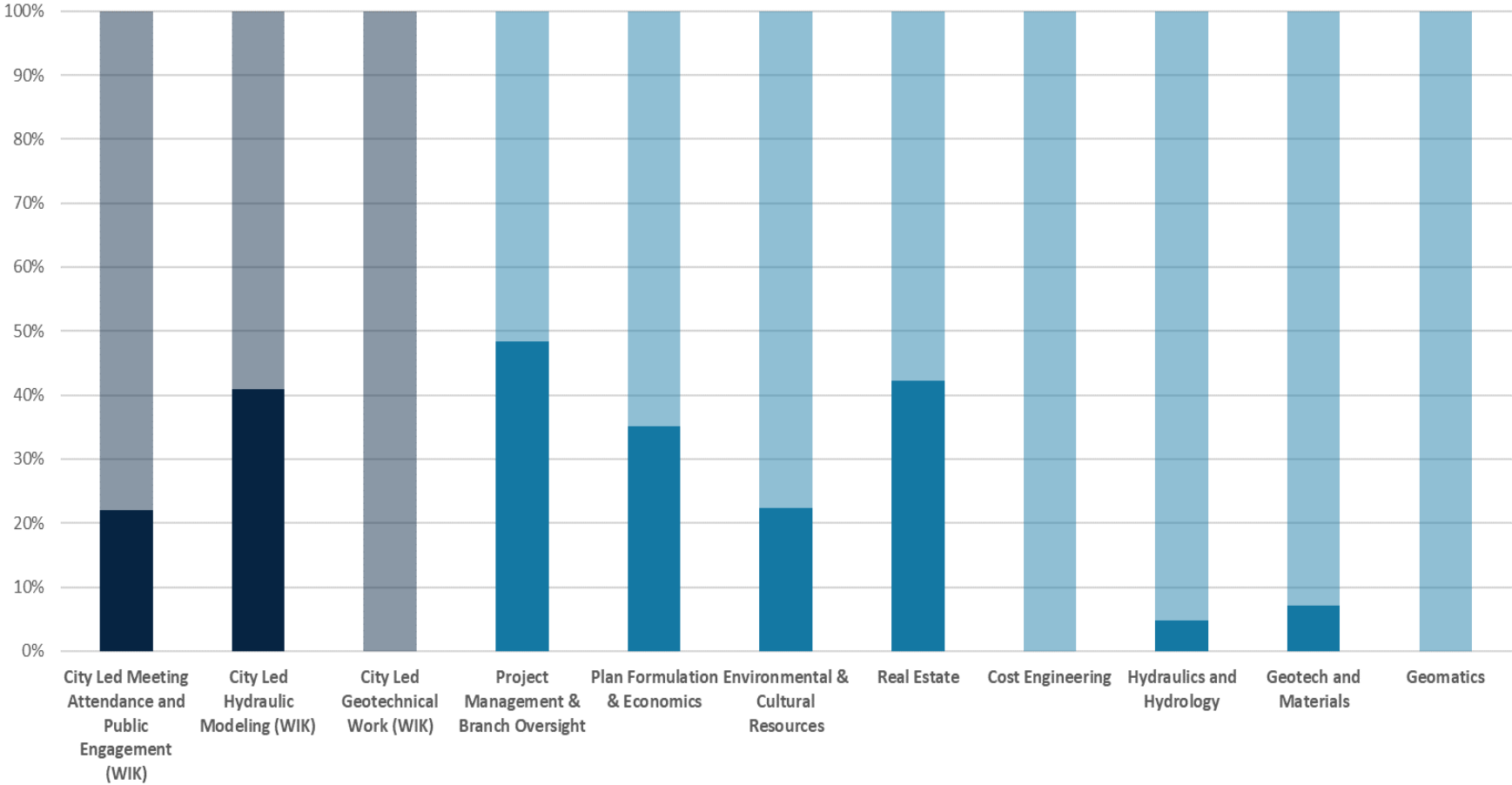
The navigation project in Homer exemplifies the power of multi-level partnerships in addressing the evolving needs of maritime transportation. I am pleased to be a part of this collaborative effort and remain committed to working closely and collaboratively with you and the City of Homer as we move forward. Please feel free to contact me through e-mail at pod-pao@usace.army.mil or poa.ExecutiveOffice@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Palazzini  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding  
USACE Alaska District

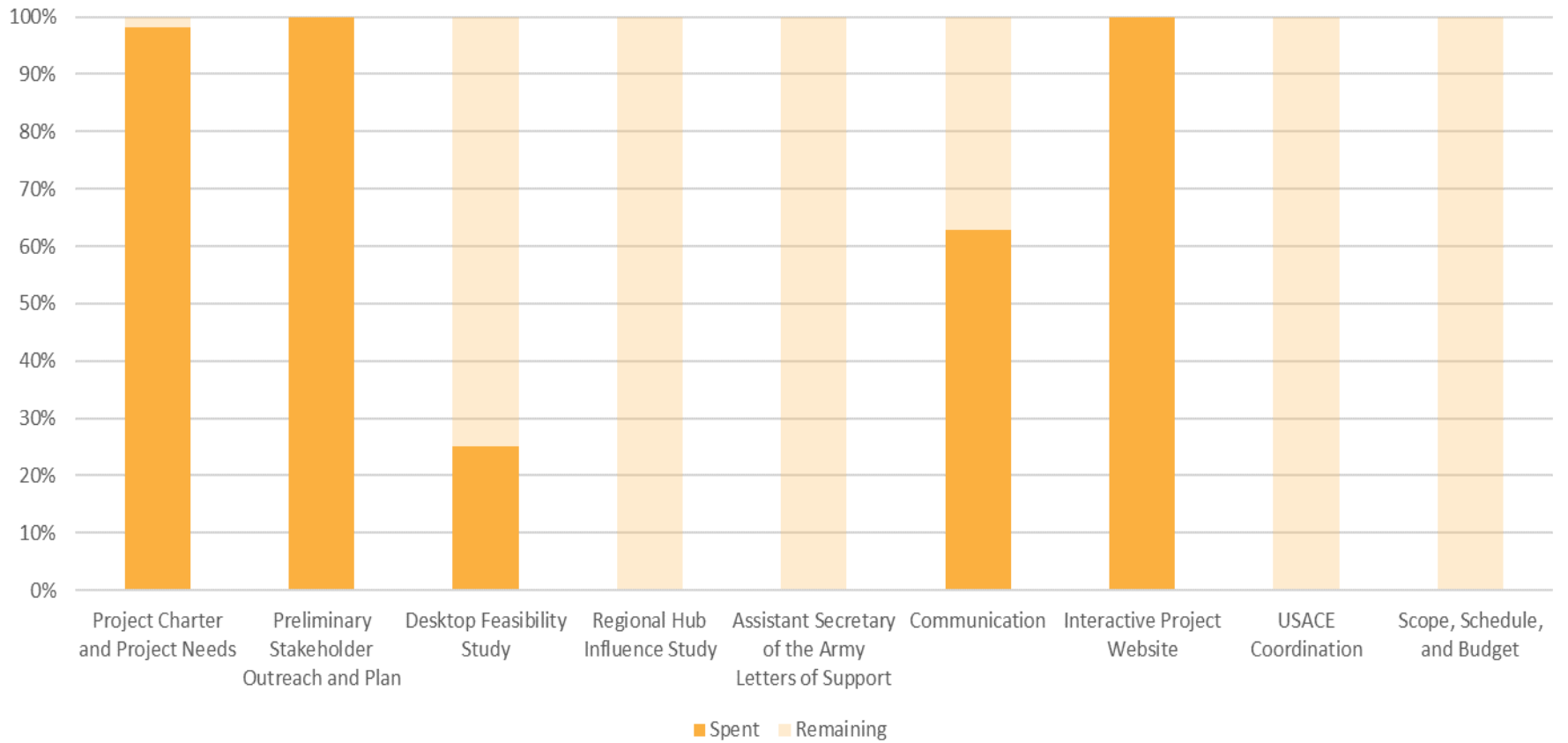
Kirk E. Gibbs  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding  
USACE Pacific Ocean Division

### Spent to Date by Study Budget Category



As of 4/15/24

### Owner's Representative Spent to Date by Task



*As of 4/8/24*



# MEMORANDUM

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## Community Rating System Program Status

**Item Type:** Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
**Date:** April 22, 2024  
**From:** Ryan Foster, AICP, City Planner  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of the City's participation in Community Rating System (CRS) Program and to inform the Council of the intention to withdraw from the program. The CRS is a voluntary federal incentive program that encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The City of Homer joined the CRS program in approximately 2014. At that time the Planning Division staff consisted of 4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and had the resources and time to pursue a voluntary program. With a current staff of 2.5 FTEs, the ability to prepare the paperwork and tracking for the program is difficult and time consuming, drawing resources and staff time away from required tasks of the Planning Division. Homer is rated a CRS class of 9 with the discount amount for flood insurance from the program of 5% (the lowest discount amount class). There are currently 12 properties covered under this discount, with a total community savings of \$3,236.

Based on the return on investment of staff time and resources and the limited community benefit received, staff is preparing to withdraw from the CRS program and will work with Federal Emergency Management Administration staff to complete that process. Upon withdrawal from the CRS program, the City of Homer would still be in the National Flood Insurance Program and all applicable floodplain management codes still apply for all future development.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough similarly withdrew from the CRS program in January 2023, but remains in the NFIP. While there were 210 policies affected by the change, the total savings to policyholders was \$4,671.30. The Borough found the cost to continue the program "exceeded the intended benefits of the program."



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Because everyone deserves to get home safely

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), with the partner cities Homer, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, were awarded grant funds to develop a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

*Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality.*

## WHAT IS A CSAP?

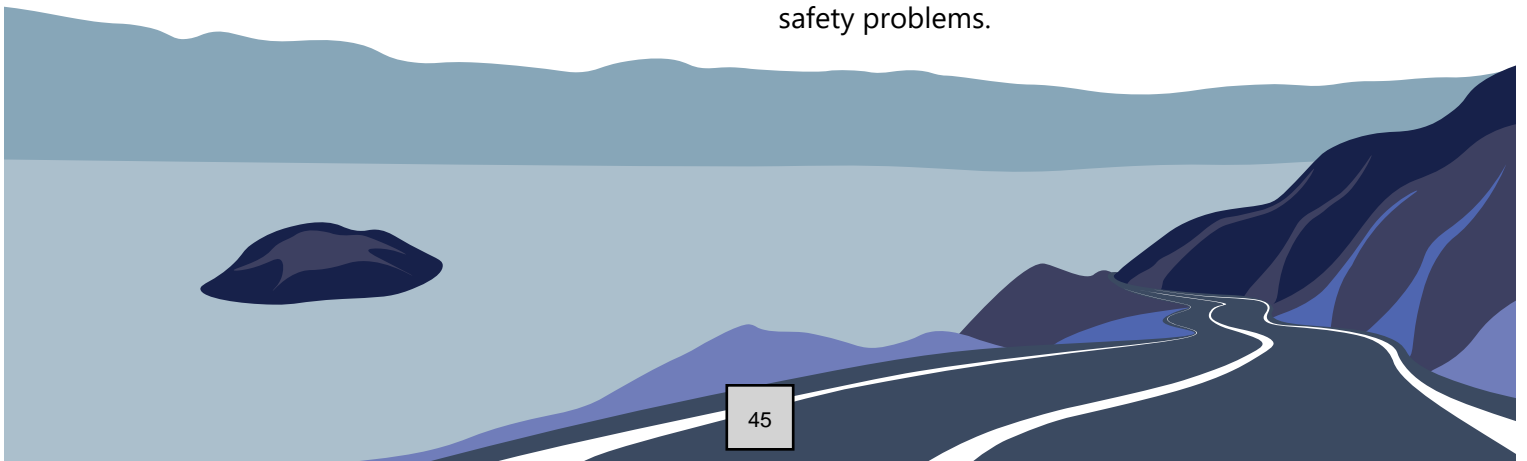
A CSAP is a long-term strategy for enhancing the safety of the borough's roads through a holistic approach to reduce (and eventually prevent) roadway fatalities and serious injuries borough wide. The CSAP will be structured around the Safe System Approach (SSA) National Roadway Safety Strategy developed by the USDOT.

## WHY DO WE NEED A CSAP?

The KPB had **14 non-motorist fatalities** and serious injuries between 2016 and 2021, according to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Alaska Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. In September 2023, a driver and passenger were killed while slowing in a school zone. In December 2022, a head on collision near Clam Gulch resulted in two fatalities. Also, in December 2022, a pedestrian/vehicle accident resulted in a pedestrian fatality. According to the AKDOT&PF the KPB had 238 fatal or serious injury crashes (both motorist and non-motorist) between 2017 and 2022.

Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality. The CSAP will help the KPB and their partner cities to understand the causes and contributing factors, and recommend countermeasures, creating redundancy and reducing risk. The plan will identify opportunities to improve safety through proactive and systemic programs, policies, processes, partnerships, and projects, especially for areas revealed to be of the highest concern.

A CSAP situates the borough, and partner cities to apply for future grant funds for projects and strategies identified in the plan to address roadway safety problems.



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

## WHAT IS THE SSA?

The Safe Systems Approach (SSA) is a framework to help agencies prioritize safety policies, programs, and projects. The SSA principles are:

- No fatal or serious injury crashes
- A transportation system that can accommodate errors in human judgment
- A transportation system that limits speed
- Investments that prevent future crashes
- Engagement and coordination from all transportation and safety agencies
- Investments in solutions across the system, not at individual locations



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You are the users of the KPB roadways as pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, commercial vehicle operators and micromobility and personal conveyance users. Your knowledge and perspectives on issues and opportunities to improve the safety of the transportation system is essential.

### Opportunities to participate:

#### Public Workshop 1

May 7, 2024; 5-7 PM, Homer High School Commons; 600 Fairview Avenue, Homer

May 8, 2024; 5-7 PM, Donald E. Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna

May 9, 2024; 5-7 PM, Seward Community Library & Museum, 239 6th Avenue, Seward

Virtual TBD

#### Public Workshop 2

TBD; Fall 2024

#### Public Workshop 3

TBD; Winter 2024/25

## WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Questions? Contact:

**Beth McKibben**, AICP

Lead Planner

[bmckibben@rmconsult.com](mailto:bmckibben@rmconsult.com)

907.646.9664

**Van Le**, AICP, Project Manager

[vle@rmconsult.com](mailto:vle@rmconsult.com)

907.646.9659

**Robert Ruffner**, Planning Director,

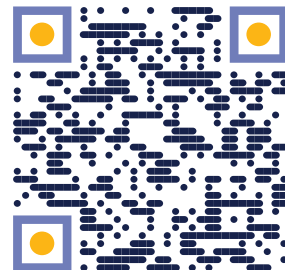
Kenai Peninsula Borough

[RRuffner@kpb.us](mailto:RRuffner@kpb.us) 907.714.2378

**Celina Robinson**, GIS Specialist,

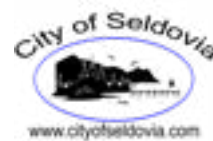
Kenai Peninsula Borough

[crobinson@kpb.us](mailto:crobinson@kpb.us) 907.714.2221



Project Website

<https://kpb-ss4a-comprehensive-safety-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com/>



# KPB COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Because everyone deserves to get home safely

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Kenai Peninsula Borough, with partner cities Homer, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, is developing its first Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) structured around the Safe System Approach (SSA) National Roadway Safety Strategy developed by the USDOT. Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality. The CSAP will help the KPB and their partner cities to understand the causes and contributing factors, and identify opportunities to improve safety, especially for areas of highest concern.

Please join us for this public workshop to learn more about the KPB CSAP and how you can be involved!

### CSAP PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- **Tuesday, May 7, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Homer High School Commons; 600 Fairview Avenue, Homer
- **Wednesday, May 8, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Donald E. Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna
- **Thursday, May 9, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Seward Community Library & Museum, 239 6th Avenue, Seward
- **Virtual TBD**

Come and meet our project team, grab a snack, and learn about safety planning, the project schedule, and share your areas of transportation safety concerns.

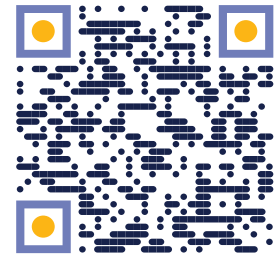
Open house begins at 5 PM and ends at 7 PM. There will be a short presentation at 5:30. Each workshop will follow the same format.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### Project Website

<https://kpb-ss4a-comprehensive-safety-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com/>



### CONTACTS

**Beth McKibben**

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907.646.9664

**Robert Ruffner**

Planning Director

Kenai Peninsula Borough  
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**Celina Robinson**

GIS Specialist

Kenai Peninsula Borough  
crobinson@kpb.us 907.714.2221







# 2024 IOF

## INDUSTRY OVERVIEW FORUM

**Location:**

Soldotna Regional Sports Complex

**25 APRIL**

THURSDAY

**8:30 AM CHECK IN & REGISTRATION**

**9:00 AM START**

**4:30 PM END**



SCAN TO REGISTER

### INDUSTRY TOPICS & HIGHLIGHTS:



**REGIONAL  
LABOR  
STATISTICS**



**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMS**



**CRITICALLY  
INTERCONNECTED  
TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- HOUSING
- TRANSPORTATION
- CHILDCARE



**HIGHLIGHTS OF  
EMERGING INDUSTRIES:**

- BLUE ECONOMY  
FEATURING  
MARICULTURE
- REGIONAL ENERGY  
PROJECTS,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
PROGRAMS



**SOLDOTNA  
RIVERFRONT  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT UPDATE**

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER HERE:

**[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/68ASUAHIXGOYPT98](https://forms.gle/68ASUAHIXGOYPT98)**

OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

**REGISTRATION IS SUGGESTED  
CLOSES APRIL 19TH**



*Homer*

# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION  
FOR TVs AND MONITORS**

All items accepted regardless of ability to pay

*Sponsored by*



**South  
Peninsula  
Hospital**



## *Accepted Items*

- Computers
- Laptops, Monitors
- Printers
- Servers, Routers, Hubs
- Televisions
- VCR's, DVD Players
- Stereos and Audio Components
- Cameras – Video and Digital
- iPhone, iTouch, iPad
- Copiers / Scanners / Fax Machines
- Cell Phones and Telephones
- Electronic Scales
- Credit Card Machines
- Alarm Clocks and Clock Radios
- Handheld Games
- Vacuums
- Communications Equipment

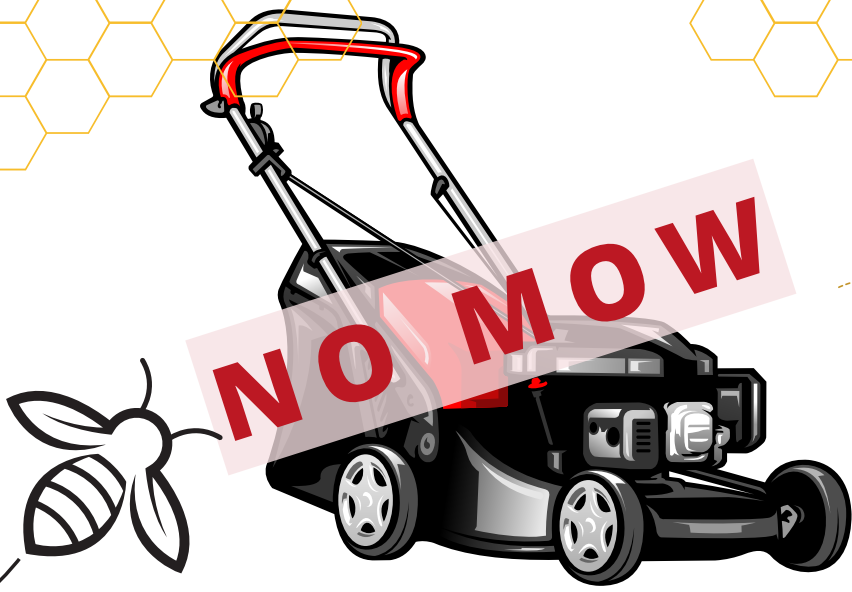
Contact 907-235-4068 ext.22  
or [recycle@inletkeeper.org](mailto:recycle@inletkeeper.org) to volunteer  
or schedule an appointment for a  
business, school, tribe, nonprofit or  
government agency.

**SATURDAY**

# April 27th

**10 AM - 2 PM | SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY**





# MAY

**SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BEES**

**LEAVE YOUR LAWN & DANDELIONS FOR THE BEES DURING MAY**

**ALL PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS THAT DISPLAY THEIR SUPPORT WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A GIFT BASKET PROVIDED BY OUR LOCAL BEEKEEPERS HOMER AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

[homerbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:homerbeekeepers@gmail.com)  
to sign up today!

