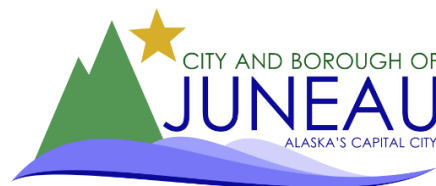


# ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 17, 2025 at 12:10 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

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<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91849897300> or 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 918 4989 7300

## A. CALL TO ORDER

## B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!

## C. ROLL CALL

Members Present In-Person: Chair Hughes-Skandijs, Ms. Hall, Mr. Kelly

Members Present Via Zoom: Mr. Smith

CBJ Staff Present: EPW Director Denise Koch, EPW Deputy Director Nate Rumsey, Chief CIP Engineer John Bohan, Port Director Carl Uchytel, Environmental Project Specialist Dianna Robinson, Grants Manager Ashley Heimbigner, Attorney Sherri Layne (Zoom), Streets & Fleet Superintendent Scott Gray (Zoom), Capital Transit Superintendent Rich Ross (Zoom), Administrative Officer Breckan Hendricks, and Meeting Clerk Kevin Allen.

Other: Janet Goodrich (Zoom) and Terra Miller-Cassman (Zoom) with Jacobs Engineering

## D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - no changes or comments.

## E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 24, 2025 - Regular Meeting - Approved with no changes.

## F. ITEMS FOR ACTION

2. Draft FY2026 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Director Koch explained that the Six Year CIP was first introduced in January. While the funding for the 'out years' is not yet secured, the plan still provides people with a clear sense of the city's long-term priorities and strategic direction moving forward.

John Bohan, Chief CIP Engineer, stated that the first year projects listed in the resolution are the most important, as they are what is being proposed to be funded by the FY26 budget. He said that this six-year plan is the City's and each department's roadmap for long-term projects. He explained the CIP process, which started in October, where engineering pinged all the departments for their priority lists and started to work with them on putting those together to get each department's comprehensive list of the current year funding and six year projects by December. Finance then did funding projections for next year's sales tax, which gave them funding allocations for the year, and in January, they drafted the CIP resolution and introduced it to the Assembly. He voiced that then the Six-year CIP was reviewed at PWFC, and then reviewed by the Assembly Finance Committee, Planning Commission, and SRRC. On April 28th, at the Regular Assembly Meeting, the public will have the opportunity to make public comment on the CIP, and June 15th is the deadline to pass the CIP. Mr. Bohan went over the CIP funding categories, which include voter approved 3% sales tax, voter approved special 1% sales tax, passenger fees, and enterprise funds.

*Minutes approved at the April 21, 2025, PWFC Meeting*

Mr. Kelly asked for an explanation on how childcare fit in as a capital project.

Mr. Bohan stated they were voter approved needs that made it to the ballot, so affordable housing and childcare were two of the projects nominated for the ballot initiative for special sales tax. He added that those projects do not live in the CIP except for generating the funding from sales tax.

Chair Hughes-Skandijs added that they have a meeting at the Assembly where they discuss and debate about this, on what should or should not be on there, and then send it out before reauthorization.

Mr. Bohan briefly discussed unscheduled funding and how projects are selected for funding. He stated that each department provides priority lists, and then CIP Engineering works with each department to identify what priorities will fit within the available funding, and any unfunded projects will move to the next fiscal year priority list. He noted that most FY26 CIP projects are infrastructure maintenance, and this year they are at 67% of sales tax funding going to infrastructure maintenance.

Ms. Hall moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward the revised FY26 CIP to the Full Assembly for introduction and inclusion into the FY26 budget review process. She asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

**3. Juneau Solid Waste Study**

Director Koch noted that they have been talking about wastewater in PWFC for the almost four years she has been with the City, but that pales in comparison to the 40 years the community has been talking about waste and doing studies on it, and now they are coming to a point where they have to make a decision. She stated that they did a Waste Characterization Study, and did a Feasibility and Capital Cost Study. She expressed that most municipal solid waste in this community goes to the landfill, which is privately owned, so if the landfill closes, they need to have a plan in place on what to do with all waste. She voiced that the three high-level options all include building a transfer station to deal with waste, where they can either send it down south, send it to a local landfill, or do some sort of waste-to-energy technology. Director Koch said that if Juneau is interested in getting control of the waste stream, a transfer station would be a critical part of that. She stated that the critical question for PWFC and the whole Assembly is whether CBJ wants to have some level of control over our waste or if they like the way things are now. She suggested the next step be to dig a little deeper into the operational cost.

Janet Goodrich, of Jacobs Engineering Group, stated that a landfill will take at least 10 years from inception to garbage coming in there, transfer stations can be a little less than that, and waste to energy can take even longer than those. She expressed that since their system is not owned entirely by the private sector and there is a potential landfill closure, it is important that CBJ look at a way to establish control over their future.

Terra Miller-Cassman, of Jacobs Engineering Group, discussed the Juneau Solid Waste Study. She stated that CBJ asked them to identify future waste disposal options and work with them to narrow some of the solutions. She stated that the objective for the study was to conduct a high-level evaluation of the capital costs and logistical feasibility in relation to three solid waste management scenarios, with the intention of initiating conversations around future solid waste management in Juneau. The study covered the current waste stream in Juneau and looked at a rough order of magnitude for capital costs for constructing each facility and the relevant regulations and permit requirements. She went over the assumptions they had to make for the study and the flow of waste in each scenario. She expressed that an important point is that the transfer facility is a key component for all three scenarios, which would serve as an interim waste management solution while CBJ explores disposal options. It would help better manage large influxes of waste, and it could act as a centralized point for waste management. She explained that with the option of a local landfill with the CBJ, waste would be routed from the

transfer facility to a landfill within Juneau for disposal and the recyclables would be transported to local or export markets. With the offsite transport scenario, wastes at the transfer facility would be consolidated and then prepared for offsite shipping by barge, which would likely require a larger transfer facility than the other two scenarios. She noted the capital costs would be lower with this scenario. With the waste-to-energy facility scenario, waste and recyclables from the transfer facility would be routed to the waste-to-energy plant. She noted that as it stands, the power produced from a waste-to-energy plant would not provide an additional electricity benefit for the CBJ, and it would not be within Juneau's best interest to have diversion programs to divert wastes for recycling or composting. Ms. Miller-Cassman went over the capital costs estimates for a transfer facility, which were estimated at \$9 to \$20 million for a local disposal facility and \$14 to \$40 million for an offsite transport facility. In regard to landfill costs, a 50-year landfill would cost between \$50 to \$162 million, and a 100-year landfill would cost \$99 million to \$323 million. She then discussed the waste-to-energy capital costs, which was estimated around \$90 million for Juneau. She said that based on the findings from the study, they hope to help CBJ determine the desired level of control over the future of waste management, and a key component of that is constructing a transfer facility that can be used for each scenario. She added that CBJ can start gauging operational costs from engaging with shipping partners and haulers.

Mr. Kelly asked what they thought about having a transfer facility to transfer waste out of town until they could get a new landfill built, considering they might have less than 10 years left for the current landfill, and it taking as long as 30 years to permit a new one.

Ms. Miller-Cassman responded that seems like the most feasible, immediate option, as having a transfer facility would allow that flexibility, and they could start by transporting offsite while they are developing onsite disposal of some kind.

Ms. Goodrich added that option gives them flexibility regardless of what they choose as the long term solution.

Mr. Smith asked how much this would cost their average household or residence, as that is an important piece of the whole plan and possible solution.

Ms. Miller-Cassman answered that is something CBJ has started to discuss and there are options for starting to evaluate that.

Director Koch agreed that they need to know what residents are going to pay for different options, and she strongly recommends investing and going to the next step to get more detailed information about operational costs.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee recommend a presentation about this topic at the Committee of the Whole and that we allocate funding for a high-level operating cost study for scenarios A, B, or a possible combination of A and B. He asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

#### 4. Token Transit Promotional Launch

Director Koch explained that they talked about the Token Transit App back in July, which allows people to pay electronically. She said they are requesting permission to run a promotion for 50% off for one week for the app, to be able to roll it out with some economic incentive.

Ms. Hall asked if the traditional method would also remain an option for people that do not have access to a smartphone.

Director Koch answered yes, and the only option that is going away is the use of physical tokens.

Ms. Hall moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee authorize the 50% discount off the regular fare price for one week and forward to the Full Assembly for approval. She asked for unanimous consent.

The Motion passed.

**5. Lone Sailor Memorial Statue**

Director Koch explained this project is being proposed by Pioneers of Alaska, and there are memos from the Port Director and the City Manager on this. She expressed that if PWFC decides to move forward with this project, they would consider it part of the public art process and it would require a resolution. She noted there is a draft resolution for their consideration.

Ms. Hall asked if this could be reviewed by the Historical Resources Advisory Committee before the Committee takes action on it.

Mr. Uchytel answered yes.

Chair Hughes-Skandijs agreed that would be a good idea.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward to the Historical Resources Advisory Committee before coming back to the Public Works and Facilities Committee. He asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6. CBJ Grant Strategy Update - Q3 FY2025**

Director Koch recommended that people take a good look at the grants memo, as it has been around eight months since they have had a comprehensive update on grants. She explained that when they brought up grants in January, those were only related to flooding. She expressed that they have a wonderful grants manager and subject matter experts who have done a lot of work applying for grants and have been successful.

**7. Mendenhall Wastewater SCADA Upgrade Project Update**

Director Koch noted that this is around a \$4 million project at the Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is the anchor wastewater treatment plant for this community. It is substantially complete and done a little under budget. She said the SCADA system is like the brain of the plant, and the machine was from the 1980s, so they made a major update with this project.

**H. PWFC 2025 ASSEMBLY GOALS**

**8. PWFC Milestones**

**I. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT**

**9. February 14, 2025 to March 12, 2025**

**J. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**10. DRAFT FY 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Book**

**11. Jacobs Engineering Draft Technical Memo**

**K. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**12. April 21, 2025 at 12:10PM**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

The March 17, 2025 PWFC Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: [city.clerk@juneau.gov](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.gov).