



City Council Special Meeting Agenda

June 02, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Council Chambers, Whittier Alaska

Mayor: Victor Shen

City Manager: Jackie C. Wilde

City Clerk: Shelby Carlson

City Attorney: Holly Wells

Council Members: Tom Wagner, Seat B, Jamie Loan, Seat C, Renner Macal tao, Seat D, David Pinguoch, Seat E, Peter Denmark, Seat F, Lorianne Borg, Seat G

Call to Order

Opening Ceremony

Roll Call

Citizen Comments on Any Agenda Item Except Those Items Scheduled For Public

Hearing: Those who have signed in will be given the first opportunity to speak on any agenda item except those scheduled for Public Hearing. Time is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker and thirty (30) minutes total time for this agenda item.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Conflict of Interest: Immediately after the Council approves the agenda at a regular or special meeting, each Council member shall declare any financial interest in a matter appearing on the agenda. Any Council member or member of the public present at the meeting may question whether another Council member has a financial interest in a matter appearing on the agenda.

Other New Business

- 1.** Resolution 2026-029 Appropriating \$145,000 from the Ground Transportation Fund for Temporary Safety Improvements and Roadway Repairs to Gateway Road, Providing Access to Glacier Creek Terminal and the Head of the Bay Area, to Address Transportation-Related Impacts Generated by Increased Visitation, Improve Public Safety, Preserve Access, and Mitigate Deteriorated Road Conditions

Council Comments

Citizen Discussion: Those signed-in will be given the first opportunity to speak on any subject over which the Council has control. Time is limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

- 2.** Laydown - S. Marx

Council and Administration Response to Citizen Comments

Executive Session

Adjournment

Sponsored by: Wilde

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2026-029**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, APPROPRIATING \$145,000 FROM THE GROUND TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR TEMPORARY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND ROADWAY REPAIRS TO GATEWAY ROAD, PROVIDING ACCESS TO GLACIER CREEK TERMINAL AND THE HEAD OF THE BAY AREA, TO ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION-RELATED IMPACTS GENERATED BY INCREASED VISITATION, IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY, PRESERVE ACCESS, AND MITIGATE DETERIORATED ROAD CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, increased traffic volumes, seasonal visitation, severe weather conditions, and limited available funding have accelerated deterioration of the roadway and created significant maintenance challenges; and

WHEREAS, sections of Gateway Road have deteriorated to the point that large potholes, surface failures, drainage issues, and roadway deficiencies create safety concerns for motorists, pedestrians, campground users, emergency responders, and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier experiences seasonal visitation that places increased demands on roads, public facilities, drainage systems, pedestrian facilities, campgrounds, public safety services, and other City infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City finds it necessary to undertake temporary roadway repairs to reduce hazards, preserve access, protect public safety, and reduce potential liability associated with known roadway deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, because of immediate safety concerns and the need to preserve access to public facilities, the City has elected to undertake temporary repairs to Gateway Road while pursuing a long-term transportation solution; and

WHEREAS, the temporary improvements authorized by this Resolution are not intended to bring Gateway Road into full design standards, establish ownership, certify the roadway, or create a permanent roadway system, but instead represent an interim measure until a long-term transportation solution can be developed; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to pursue stakeholder partnerships, planning efforts, and state and federal funding opportunities for the design and construction of a future transportation corridor serving Glacier Creek Terminal and the Head of the Bay area; and

WHEREAS, the future transportation corridor is anticipated to include roadway improvements constructed to applicable engineering standards, drainage infrastructure, pedestrian facilities, sidewalks where appropriate, traffic safety features, and other infrastructure necessary to meet long-term transportation and public safety needs.

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49 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES:**
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51 **Section 1.** Appropriation. The City Council hereby appropriates One Hundred Forty-Five
52 Thousand Dollars (\$145,000) from the Ground Transportation Fund for temporary roadway
53 repairs and safety improvements to Gateway Road.
54

55 **Section 2.** Funding Source. The appropriation shall be funded through the Ground
56 Transportation Fund. To the extent sufficient funds are not yet available, the City Manager is
57 authorized to temporarily advance funds from the General Fund or other available municipal
58 resources, with future Ground Transportation Fund revenues reimbursing or offsetting such
59 expenditures when available.
60

61 **Section 3.** Purpose. The purpose of this appropriation is to address immediate public
62 safety concerns, preserve roadway access, protect City infrastructure, reduce liability exposure,
63 and maintain transportation connectivity until a permanent transportation corridor can be
64 planned, designed, funded, and constructed.
65

66 **Section 4.** Temporary Nature of Improvements. The City Council expressly finds that the
67 work authorized by this Resolution constitutes temporary repairs and safety improvements only
68 and is not intended to represent final roadway design, reconstruction, acceptance of ownership,
69 roadway certification, or compliance with future roadway standards.
70

71 **Section 5.** Future Transportation Corridor. The City Council supports continued
72 stakeholder engagement and pursuit of state and federal funding opportunities for the
73 development of a permanent transportation corridor that includes roadway improvements
74 constructed to applicable engineering standards, drainage systems, pedestrian facilities,
75 sidewalks where appropriate, and other infrastructure necessary to meet long-term transportation
76 and public safety needs.
77

78 **Section 6.** Public Purpose. The City Council finds that the temporary repairs authorized
79 by this Resolution serve a valid public purpose by protecting public safety, preserving access to
80 public facilities, maintaining transportation connectivity, reducing liability exposure, and
81 protecting City infrastructure while long-term planning and funding efforts for a permanent
82 transportation corridor are pursued.
83

84 **Section 7.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.
85
86

87 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council
88 on this _____ day of _____, 2026.
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92

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2026-029**

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Item # 1.

93

94

95 AYES:

96 NOES:

97 ABSENT:

98 ABSTAIN:

99

100

101 **ATTEST:**

102

103

104

105 **Shelby Carlson**
106 Acting City Clerk

Victor Shen

Mayor

(City Seal)

BRIEFING MEMO

To: Mayor Victor Shen

From: Sean Marx, Whittier Resident

Subject: Preliminary Concept – FY 2026 Port Communications & Cybersecurity Modernization

Date: June 2, 2026 - City Council Special Meeting - Citizen Discussion

Purpose

To provide an overview of a potential **FY 2026 federal grant initiative** aimed at strengthening Whittier's port-area communications, cybersecurity posture, and emergency coordination capabilities. This memo is intended to support early awareness and inform future Council discussion.

Background

Whittier's deep-water port is a **critical maritime hub** for Southcentral Alaska, supporting:

- Mega cruise vessels
- Commercial fishing fleets
- Phillips Cruises & Tours
- Cliffside Marina HOA
- Whittier Port & Harbor
- Alaska Marine Lines
- Alaska Railroad intermodal operations
- Alaska Marine Highway System

Each season, **thousands of cruise passengers walk directly adjacent to Cliffside Marina** as they move between the Princess Cruises berth, motorcoaches, tour buses, and the Alaska Railroad terminal. This creates a **high-density, high-consequence intermodal corridor** where reliable, secure communications are essential for public safety and coordinated response.

Whittier and surrounding Prince William Sound communities also face **significant natural hazards**, including severe storms, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunami risk. These realities underscore the need for resilient, redundant communications infrastructure.

Proposed Project Concept

The initiative under consideration would modernize Whittier's port-area communications environment through:

- **Encrypted, interoperable digital radios**
- **Redundant microwave/fiber backhaul**
- **Cyber-secure network infrastructure** (firewalls, segmentation, zero-trust elements)
- **Shared Common Operating Picture (COP)** for port-area partners
- **Deployable incident communications kit** for emergencies

These components align directly with **Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)** priorities and support regional resilience.

Funding Pathways

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) – FY 2026

- Primary mechanism for City participation
- Supports port-wide communications, cybersecurity, and resilience
- Requires a **City-led application**

Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program (TCGP) – FY 2026

- Supports cybersecurity components of shared or interconnected systems
- Requires a federally recognized Tribe as applicant or partner
- **Chenega Tribal Government has confirmed they are not pursuing TCGP in FY 2026**, but expressed openness to supporting a City-led PSGP application

Regional Partner Engagement

Initial outreach to **Chenega Tribal Government / Chenega Corporation** has resulted in:

- Appreciation for inclusion in early discussions
- Willingness to consider a **letter of support** for a City-led FY 2026 PSGP application
- Interest in an **introductory meeting** to discuss regional collaboration opportunities

This strengthens Whittier’s competitiveness under PSGP criteria related to **regional coordination** and **port-wide benefit**.

Requested Action

At this stage, no formal action is required. I respectfully request:

- **Initial review** of the concept
- **Guidance** on whether the City wishes to explore a formal FY 2026 PSGP application
- **Identification of a City point of contact** for next-step coordination
- **Consideration of participation** in an introductory meeting with Chenega representatives

Next Steps (If Directed by the Mayor/Council)

1. City designates a lead staff member or committee
2. Introductory meeting with Chenega and port stakeholders
3. Development of a draft PSGP project narrative and budget
4. Council review and authorization once FY 2026 PSGP NOFO is released

CITY OF WHITTIER

COUNCIL PACKET

FY 2026 PORT COMMUNICATIONS & CYBERSECURITY MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

Prepared for: **Whittier City Council**

Prepared by: **Sean Marx, Whittier Resident**

Date: **June 2026**

SECTION 1 — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

This document provides an overview of a proposed **FY 2026 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)** initiative to modernize Whittier's port-area communications and cybersecurity infrastructure. The project aims to enhance public safety, operational resilience, and coordinated emergency response across the City's maritime and intermodal environment.

Background

Whittier serves as a critical maritime gateway for Southcentral Alaska, supporting cruise ships, commercial fishing, Phillips Cruises & Tours, Cliffside Marina HOA, Alaska Marine Lines, the Alaska Railroad, and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Each summer, thousands of cruise passengers move through a concentrated intermodal corridor adjacent to Cliffside Marina and the railroad terminal.

Whittier and surrounding Prince William Sound communities face significant natural hazards, including severe storms, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunami risk. Reliable, secure communications are essential for coordinated response and continuity of operations.

Project Components

The proposed modernization initiative includes:

- Encrypted, interoperable digital radios
- Redundant microwave/fiber backhaul
- Cyber-secure network infrastructure (firewalls, segmentation, zero-trust elements)
- Shared Common Operating Picture (COP) for port-area partners
- Deployable incident communications kit for emergencies

Funding Pathways

- **Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)** — Primary pathway for the City of Whittier.
- **Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program (TCGP)** — The Tribe is not pursuing TCGP funding for FY 2026. Chenega has indicated openness to supporting a City-led PSGP application once the FY 2026 opportunity is released.

Regional Partner Engagement

The City has initiated outreach to Chenega, who expressed interest in exploring mutually beneficial partnership opportunities and participating in an introductory meeting. Chenega also indicated they would consider providing a letter of support for a City-led FY 2026 PSGP application.

Requested Council Action

At this stage, no formal action is required. Council is asked to:

- Review the concept
- Provide initial feedback

- Identify a City point of contact
- Consider participating in a meeting with Chenega representatives

SECTION 2 — PUBLIC-FACING BRIEFING

Overview

The City of Whittier is exploring a potential federal grant opportunity to improve communications and cybersecurity infrastructure across the port area. This effort aims to strengthen public safety, emergency response, and operational coordination among the many agencies and organizations that rely on Whittier's port.

Why This Matters

Whittier's port is one of the most important maritime gateways in Alaska. During the summer season, thousands of visitors move through the harbor, cruise ship terminal, and railroad corridor. Ensuring reliable, secure communications is essential for:

- Emergency response
- Public safety
- Coordination between agencies
- Continuity of operations during storms or outages

What the Project Would Do

If funded, the project would provide:

- Modern digital radios for port-area partners
- Backup communication pathways
- Improved cybersecurity protections
- A shared information platform for emergency coordination
- Portable equipment for use during incidents or outages

Who Is Involved

The City has begun outreach to regional partners, including Chenega, who expressed interest in supporting the effort and participating in discussions.

Funding Source

The project would be submitted to the **Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)**, a federal program that supports port-wide safety and security improvements.

Next Steps

If the City Council wishes to proceed:

1. Designate a City point of contact
2. Participate in an introductory meeting with Chenega
3. Begin drafting the grant application
4. Prepare materials ahead of the expected **August 2026** application window

SECTION 3 — ADDENDUM: FY 2026 PSGP PREPARATION TIMELINE

June 2026 — Concept Alignment & Council Direction

- Council reviews project concept
- Mayor designates City point of contact
- Identify internal departments (Harbor, Public Safety, IT)
- Begin assembling background materials

July 2026 — Scoping & Partner Coordination

- Hold internal scoping meeting
- Conduct introductory meeting with Chenega
- Request Letter of Support
- Begin drafting narrative, budget, and justification
- Identify match funding (if required)

Early August 2026 — Pre-NOFO Readiness

- Finalize draft narrative and budget
- Prepare ND Grants access
- Pre-load supporting documents
- Conduct internal review with Mayor and Council leadership

Mid-August 2026 — Expected NOFO Release

- Review FY 2026 requirements
- Adjust narrative and budget
- Confirm partner letters
- Assemble final application package

Late August 2026 — Submission Window

- Upload documents to ND Grants

- Conduct compliance check
- Submit application
- Document submission for Council records

September–December 2026 — Post-Submission

- Respond to FEMA requests
- Prepare for potential award announcement
- Begin preliminary planning for implementation

SECTION 4 — REFERENCES

1. FY 2025 Port Security Grant Program – Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Commons <https://www.news.uscg.mil/maritime-commons/Article/4273235/fy2025-port-security-grant-program-notice-of-funding-opportunity/>

2. FEMA ND Grants Portal (Application Submission System)

<https://go.fema.gov/login?redirect=%2F>