
MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: William Homka, City Manager
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: Identifying the City of Unalaska's State Priorities

SUMMARY: Every year the City Council identifies, via resolution, the capital project priorities to place in the State Legislative queue which is called CAPSIS (Capital Project Submission and Information System). My approach is to keep it simple and very straight forward. Legislators don't have the time to read a long resolution with information that they don't much care about. So I like to get to the point and provide the explanation of projects in CAPSIS and of course in the briefing memo which will be distributed to our delegation in Juneau prior to our visits there, which will happen again in March this year. You will recognize many of the projects that are contained in the resolution. You may wish to add or subtract projects as this is within your authority.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council last adopted a State Priorities resolution on January 27, 2023, identifying priorities at the time (Resolution 2023-04).

BACKGROUND: The outside influences on this resolution include what happens in Washington because if you receive funding from the Federal Government it can be leveraged to obtain funding from the State Legislature. And the legislature likes to see community participation as well. The City of Unalaska is fortunate in that it has money to participate. There are many communities in the state who cannot meet the match requirements of many grant programs. Also, just because we ask for money from State and Federal legislative and congressional processes does not mean we are not also looking for grants.

DISCUSSION: The following capital projects were included in last year's priorities; I am assuming you have seen these projects before. I can't stress enough how important it is to simplify the resolution to be more to the point. The more succinct the better.

Last year's list of projects:

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| 1. Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements Project | \$7.0 M |
| 2. Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements | \$3.5 M |
| 3. Electrical Interconnection Project (Federal Allocation \$2.5 M) | \$3.2 M |
| 4. Unalaska Marine Center & Light Cargo Dock Dredging | \$2.7 M |
| 5. Airport Terminal Building for Planning & Engineering | \$500,000 |

This year's recommended list of projects:

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| 1. Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements Project | \$13,155,000 |
| 2. Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements | \$3,500,000 |
| 3. Unalaska Marine Center & Light Cargo Dock Dredging | \$2,700,000 |

4. Airport Terminal Building Planning and Engineering

\$500,000

Captains Bay Road, Phase 1, \$13,155,000: This amount is included in the Alaska State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP ID. 34349) as a discretionary line item. It has not been approved for funding yet. It will pay for 1.4 miles of paving and improvements between Airport Beach Road and the south end of the Westward Seafoods Complex. This project has been in planning for many years.

Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor Improvements, \$3,500,000: The project includes replacing A and B floats as well as some upland work. We have completed the process to obtain title to the needed state tidelands for the project and we have completed the basic design. The C float was completed some years ago with great success. We intend to bid this project out as a design build project.

UMC and LCD Dredging, \$2,700,000: This project needs to be done in conjunction with the Harbor Entrance Dredging which was awarded \$25.6 million from the Federal Government. We hope to take advantage of the dredging equipment being in town for the larger project to save on mob and de-mob costs inherent in all of our projects.

Airport Terminal Building Planning and Engineering, \$500,000: Design funds get the project started which would include a public process to review designs and estimates before lobbying for the full amount for construction. I envision remodeling the current facility and adding on to it. Total costs are unknown until you have a completed design. The process could take 5 to 10 years.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may choose to add or subtract projects. Direction is also requested as to the identification of Council's top funding priority.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There are critical issues happening in the commercial fishing industry that will ultimately impact revenue streams for the City of Unalaska. There are also projects that the city needs help with funding.

LEGAL: No legal review required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of this resolution, along with direction on Council's top funding priority.

PROPOSED MOTION: NA

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: State funding is always uncertain but we've made some progress. The Captains Bay Road is listed on the STIP but hasn't received an award yet. Dianne Blumer, our state lobbyist, will be available at the council meeting to answer any questions.