

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Cordova

Project Title:

Cordova - Boat Haul Out and Marine Pollution Abatement

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,000,000

House District: 5 - C

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Cordova needs to be able to lift boats out of the water while the undersides are being cleaned. This will allow for the toxins that are used on these boats to be collected and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$1,000,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$540,000					
Local Funds	\$360,000		\$250,000			
Total	\$900,000		\$250,000			

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Cordova's economy relies heavily on local commercial fishing. The City would like to be able to provide vessels with the ability to clean, maintain, and repair their vessels in an environmentally safe manner.

Cordova needs to be able to lift boats out of the water while the undersides are being cleaned. This will allow for the toxins that are used on these boats to be collected and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. Currently, vessels are using the tidewater grid in the harbor and this results in toxins being deposited into the municipal boat harbor. A vessel haul out will eliminate this discharge. It will also allow vessels to be removed from the water to replace fittings below the water line that cannot be completed in one tide cycle.

The EDA Federal grant expires in 2009 and the City of Cordova will provide a 25% matching grant for any funding secured through the state.

Project Timeline:

The City is ready to go with this project. As soon as funding is secured construction will begin.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Cordova

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

4:48 PM 4/29/2008

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Scott Hahn, City Manager

Phone Number: 907-424-6200

Address: P.O. Box 1210, Cordova, AK 99574

Email: citymanager@cityofcordova.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

2008-2009 Capitol Project list for City of Cordova

1. Boat Haul out and Marine Pollution Abatement (\$1.0 million)

(The City will provide a 25% match to any funds provided.)

Cordova has been attempting to purchase and install a marine travel lift to remove large boats from the water for repairs locally. The City received an EDA grant of \$540,000, which was matched by the city with \$360,000 for the purchase of a marine lift. The city has also received Denali Commission funds to complete the engineering of the travel lift causeway. Both the EDA and Denali Commission agree to the need for this project.

An amphibious lift was proposed and deemed feasible, however, after the engineering firm of PN&D examined the boat ramps in Cordova, it became clear that a complete rebuild of the ramp would be required to support the weight of the lift and vessel. The estimated cost to do the rebuild was over \$1.0 million. PN&D recommended that the city consider a non-amphibious travel hoist to reduce the corrosion and allow for boat haul outs at a greater range of tides. The construction of the supporting causeways was estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million. A non-amphibious travel hoist would cost less than an amphibious lift thus making both systems nearly the same in total costs although the non-amphibious hoist can operate in a wider tide range and is not subject to the corrosive actions of sea water emersion.

The ability to remove large vessels from the water will allow the removal of fouling agents attached to the bottom of these boats in an upland location which can contain the toxic paints and materials that are removed. Currently, vessels are using the tidewater grid in the harbor to conduct such cleaning, which deposits these toxic materials into the municipal boat harbor. A vessel haul out will eliminate that discharge. A vessel haul out will also allow vessels to be removed from the water to replace fittings below the water line that cannot be completed in one tide cycle. These types of repairs require the vessel to travel to another port at great expense to the local owner because of hotel, food and fuel costs at a distant location. The EDA grant expires in 2009. The city is seeking \$1.0 million in assistance from the State of Alaska to construct the supporting causeway for the travel lift and will provide a 25% match for any funds received from the State.

2. Child Safety Causeway (\$1,673,000)

Whitshed Road is a narrow, winding state road with no shoulders with a steep cliff to Orca Inlet on one side and a steep mountain on the other side. The state right-of-way is not conducive to the installation of a bike path along this stretch of road. Several years ago the construction of a bike path along the Copper River Highway, where the state right-of-way is much wider, was estimated to cost over a \$1 million dollars a mile. The one mile section along Whitshed Road to the location of the ball field from the sidewalks at the Copper River Highway would far exceed that amount as the terrain is very steep, and private property would need to be encroached upon for construction. The City is very concerned with the safety of children walking along this stretch of road, and is proposing that a causeway be built across a tidal flat from the ball field to the nearest point of land to provide safe access for pedestrians. A preliminary engineering cost estimate for this causeway is \$1.67 million. The city will utilize many of the pilings salvaged from the rebuild of the small boat harbor several years ago to reduce the cost of materials. This child safety causeway is strongly

supported by the community and City. It will provide safe access to the recreation area and eliminate the possibility of a tragic injury or death of child on this narrow, winding state road.

In the fall of 2007, the City of Cordova completed the installation of a Little League regulation baseball field along side of Whitshed Road. Whitshed Road is a state road going from the Copper River Highway to Hartney Bay. This ball field was a community project with support from many different organizations. Alaska Marine Lines donated over \$100,000 of freight to bring sod and peat to the field for installation. The Eyak Corporation donated over \$50,000 in rock and sand for fill and surface drainage for the ball field. The City contributed over \$150,000 to purchase the sod, peat and fencing and provided the labor and equipment to level and compact the field. Over 60 volunteers from the community spent one weekend in September in gale force winds and rain to lay the peat and sod. Cordova now has a Little League regulation baseball field that will allow us to play home baseball games for many years to come. The issue of safe access to this ball field is a major concern.

3. Copper River Highway Repair and Upgrade (\$20 million)

The Copper River Highway between Mile 38 and Mile 43 is in critical need of repair and upgrade. The Copper River has changed course, possibly because of the 100 year floods in 2006. One channel of the Copper River is running parallel to the highway and flooded the highway twice last summer. Only because of the hard work of the local DOT personnel and every contractor in Cordova was the highway saved from washing out. The volume of water that is passing under bridges near this area far exceeds the design of the bridges, and failure of several bridges is very possible in the next year or two.

Bridge support pilings that were 80 ft deep are now swinging free in the current. The short term fix for this state highway is to armor the sides of the road with large rock and raise the road bed two to three feet. The long term fix is to install one or more new bridges to allow water to pass under the road relieving pressure on the road, existing bridges, and allowing for salmon passage. Currently, salmon are trapped below several culverts meant for rainwater discharge which are now several feet under river water with large whirl pools over the intakes.

This highway provides access to Childs Glacier and the Childs Glacier Campground. The state and federal government each contributed \$1 million to upgrade and expand this campground in 2006 and 2007. It also accesses the Million Dollar Bridge, which was built in 1910 to haul Copper ore from the Kennecott Mine to Cordova. Recent repairs to this bridge by the state exceeded \$18 million. Both of these locations are world class tourist attractions and are the support base of the summer tourist economy in Cordova. The Copper River Highway also provides access to the sonar camp operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and used to enumerate salmon up the Copper River, which impacts a multimillion dollar salmon fishery. This highway also provides access to the Native Village of Eyak's fish wheel study area that in conjunction with the sonar enumerates the number of Chinook salmon passing up the Copper River. It also provides access to the east Copper River Delta and the natural resources that are located in that area.

4. Hospital Safety Equipment (\$224,000 various items)

The Cordova Community Hospital is in need of several pieces of equipment to continue efficient and safe operations and to comply with significantly increased scrutiny by state and federal inspectors.

Two 25 year-old emergency generators need to be replaced with newer, larger models that can power the entire facility. These generators need to be installed in a separate building instead of in the hospital basement (\$200,000). The automatic switch gear on the generators that will start and apply load to these units during a power failure is also 25 years old and has the potential to fail. These switch gear needs to be replaced with modern technology to insure the safety of the patients and staff at the Cordova Community Hospital (\$10,000). The parking lot lights are in need of being replaced and upgraded to provide safely lit ground during the night time hours particularly in the winter months for many of the elderly that visit the hospital (\$10,000). Security cameras near the emergency room entrance to monitor patient traffic both in and out are needed particularly during the nighttime hours. The camera system will aid the night nurse in tracking visitors and patients (\$4,000).

5. “G” Float Repairs in the Small Boat Harbor (\$1.0 Million)

The last 10 stalls in the “G” float are not usable. The state transferred the small boat harbor to the City of Cordova in 2004 and provided some money to do the needed repairs and replacement of the harbor facilities. The amount of money provided in 2004 replaced the oldest part of the harbor with new floats. The remaining harbor was still in various states of disrepair. The City is requesting money to repair the “G” float so that boats can use this location.

6. Eyak River Bridge (\$10 Million)

The bridge over the Eyak River on the Copper River Highway is too narrow to meet the existing traffic flow. The movement of fresh fish to the airport in the spring and summer requires large trucks to cross the bridge, creating a hazard for on-coming traffic and pedestrians. The surface of the bridge is failing with large breaks in the pavement requiring constant repair and maintenance. *The bridge no longer meets many of the highway safety standards*, and needs to be replaced or upgraded to handle the larger traffic and increased volume. The Eyak River bridge is the only road that accesses the state airport at Mile 13. A popular sport fishing area is immediately above the bridge, which increases the pedestrian traffic on the bridge in order to cross the river. The narrow bridge coupled with large trucks hauling fish to the airport and pedestrians on the roadway surface is an extreme safety hazard.

7. Sawmill Avenue Extension (\$600,000)

(The City will provide a 25% match to any funds provided.)

Sawmill Avenue ends at a small tide flat that was formed when fill was created after the harbor was built. This small finger of mudflat is only touched by water at the most extreme high tides. It does create a break between sawmill avenue and the South fill. This short stretch (100 yards) of road would allow traffic to flow smoothly around the boat launch in the small boat harbor avoiding the congestion that currently exists. An extension would also provide a safe walking corridor for high school students to the local Alaska Commercial grocery store and deli during lunch break. Students now walk on the Copper River highway to this store. This short stretch of road would also create an area that would be available for disposal of harbor dredge spoils in the future. The requested funds are for permitting, engineering and construction of this road. The city will contribute a 25% match to the state funds received.

8. Children's Memorial Park (\$25,000)

The record snowfall in 2006 caused considerable damage to the Children's Memorial Park playground equipment. After the snow melted many pieces of the playground equipment had to be removed because of the damage. This park was created in memory of Cordova children who have lost their lives over the years from motor vehicle accidents, drowning and other reasons. Donations from citizens and corporations bought the playground equipment to provide a safe place of play for young children in memory of those children who had lost their lives. The cost to replace the existing playground equipment was found to exceed \$90,000. The city is asking for assistance to restore this playground equipment. The city will match any funds received to replace the damaged equipment.

9. Secure Impound Lot (\$20,000)

The Cordova community has a large summer transient population which each year arrives in motor vehicles in many states of disrepair. Each year the city is left with abandoned vehicles. At other times, vehicular violations on the state highway will require a vehicle be impounded until the owner can retrieve it. All of these situations require that a secure impound lot is available to store these vehicles until they are claimed or otherwise disposed. The city has property that can be used for such an impound lot, but needs assistance from the state to purchase a fence and security camera to prevent vandalism and theft. Both the city police and the state troopers would have access to the impound lot for temporary vehicle storage.