

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Delta Junction

Project Title:

Delta Junction - Downtown Arterial & School Bus Route Road Paving

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,950,000

House District: 12 - F

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Improvements for critical local roads currently used as school bus routes with right-of-way improvements and road paving.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$2,000,000

	<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>
Local Funds	\$728,420	09				
Total	\$728,420					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This request is in addition to secured City funds for paving and brushing along local roads that have been prioritized. Six streets are intended for paving, with three identified as top priority. Routes were prioritized for roads that are used as school bus routes and need to be improved for safety and to reduce wear on buses. Paving will also be added to the parking lots for the firehall and rescue squad building.

The City Council has approved an RFP for right-of-way improvements that is expected to be completed through summer 2008. City administrators currently feel that bids are likely to come in higher than the engineer's estimate from four months ago that was used to provide the original city request letter to the legislature. This is due to rising fuel, transportation, and construction material costs.

The project will also pave overgrown islands of the Richardson Highway. Despite requests for the AK DOT&PF to maintain Richardson Highway islands, the City has cut the weeds growing from the gravel. Paving the islands would reduce maintenance and weed control requirements.

Funding of \$500,000 was "moved" from HCS CSSB 256(FIN) am H for funding in FY08. This funding will be used to complete the amount of state funding requested to complete the entire project.

Project Timeline:

Completion by start of school in Fall '08

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

City of Delta Junction

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Mike Tvenge, City Administrator

Phone Number: (907) 895-4656

Address: PO Box 229

Delta Junction, AK 99737

Email: city@ci.delta-junction.ak.us

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



City of Delta Junction

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Welcome to the Friendly Frontier

January 7, 2008

Representative John Harris

Via Fax #(907) 465-3799 & email: Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Gene Therriault

Via Fax #(907) 465-3884 & email: Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

RE: FY 2008 Legislative Priority List

Gentlemen:

At the January 2, 2008 meeting the Delta Junction City Council finalized its prioritized legislative priority list.

1. Downtown arterial and school bus route paving-including island paving (\$1,950,000)

The paving request remains on the City list for the sixth year, again as first priority. With the increased traffic and school population, roads serving the Delta area schools need to be paved. Asphalt paving costs continue to dramatically rise each year and the City wishes to effect cost savings by doing the entire paving project all at once. The City would also appreciate authority to be able to utilize a portion of the newly requested funds to brush back re-growth alongside other streets for the benefit of the school buses. The City would also appreciate legislative wording that would allow usage of a portion of the funds outside the City corporate boundaries in the unorganized borough.

2. End of Alaska Highway Arch (\$475,000)

For many years, the City of Delta Junction has sought to increase its tourism base by marketing its unique location at the end of the Alaska Highway. The Delta Chamber of Commerce has fully engineered plans for the construction of the "End of the Alaska Highway Arch" however funding has been unavailable for construction. The End of the Highway Arch could add to the tourism and marketing of this hub community.

3. Forgive 2004 State Prison settlement loan balance (\$1,050,000)

The no-interest loan from the state to settle the private prison controversy saved the City from technical bankruptcy and the City greatly appreciated the loan and will continue to make timely payments without forgiveness. However, the City expended in excess of \$200,000 in support of a potential Deltana Borough formation. The area voters overwhelmingly defeated the borough issue and therefore eliminated our chances of having the remainder of the loan forgiven. The



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Welcome to the Friendly Frontier

February 19, 2008

Kimberly L. Clark
Office of Senator Albert Kookesh
Alaska State Capitol, Room 11
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Supportive Information for FY09 CIP

Downtown arterial and school bus route paving-including island paving

- 1) The request for \$ 1,950,000 is in addition to the secured funds the City currently intends to fund the project for a total amount of \$ 2,678,420 dollars for Paving and Brushing. The City Council has named the six streets in the paving project with three named as top priority. Council has approved an RFP for Brushing right-a-ways along 12 of the 29.41 miles of city maintained streets. This contract for brushing is expected to be complete by summer 2008.
- 2) The City is asking for Department of Transportation support of the Richardson Highway traffic island paving. The State DOT does not maintain the over grown islands at the junction of the Alaska and Richardson Highways. The City has cut the weeds growing from the gravel and feels asphalt would provide local residents and tourists a more attractive area near the entrance to the Visitor Center and proposed End of the Highway Arch. Maintenance will be limited as the weed control issue will be resolved.
- 3) The project will go out to bid by March '08 with completion by fall of '08. The total project consists of 4.72 miles. Our engineers estimated costs of paving indicates we don't have the funds to pave the entire scope of work described. These roads/streets are all within the City boundaries. Enclosed are the engineer's specifications. (Exhibit A)

End of Alaska Highway Arch

- 1) This project is second on the City's priority list. The End of the Highway Arch was commissioned by the Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce. This project was designed by USKH Engineering in 1996 and the project has seen support over the years but has not gone beyond design. The City Council with support from the Chamber considers this project important both in terms of tourism and identity as the End of the Alaska Highway.
- 2) Funding was available for the original design in 1996; however further updated design work would be required to meet the State Department of Transportation and 2006 structural code specifications.

There are currently no matching funds available; however there is local in-kind support for the ground preparation and installation of the Arch.

- 3) The State support required will be the DOT right of way permitting of which initial contact for permitting has begun. Both the Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce and the City will have interest in the maintenance of this monument.
- 4) There has been no prior request from the City to the State for this End of the Alaska Highway Arch. With the requested funding the updated design would initiate the manufacture and installation of the Arch. An anticipated date of completion would be the summer of 2009, sixty six years since the completion of the Alaska Highway; fifty years since Alaska statehood.

Drawings are attached to this request. (Exhibit B)

Forgive 2004 State Prison Settlement Loan Balance

- 1) This is the third request for forgiveness. Conditionally formation of the Deltana Borough would have removed the loan balance. An election was held and the Borough formation failed. The City has spent in excess of \$ 460,000 dollars towards loan repayment and Borough formation. The costs include loan repayment to the State, legal fees and interest payment for Allvest prison settlement as well as legal and consulting fees in preparation of the Deltana Borough election.

Delta Rescue Squad

- 1) This is a new request of the State Legislature.
- 2) The City council has placed this request as its #4 priority. This new request would replace an existing Ambulance. The Delta Volunteer Rescue Squad has had numerous mechanical failures with the automatic transmission and the air suspension. The vehicle has been serviced locally and by the North Star Borough DOT. The mechanical problems don't seem to be repairable. The Squad is reluctant to use this vehicle and prefers the older ambulance to this one. The new Ambulance would be equipped with 4x4 wheel drive, allowing the driver to maneuver drifted driveways or muddy conditions.

The Medtronic Life Pack 20's are an upgraded version of the Life Pack 10's we currently have. This is the device which monitors heart rate, blood pressure, respiration etc. (all the vital signs.) Our current Life Packs are 5 years old and a warranty period (expired) of 5 years service. (Exhibit C)

The motorized gurney allows a minimum of one volunteer to move a victim over tough surface conditions. The Stryker motorized gurney we currently have in service works well and a second requested Stryker gurney would equip the newly requested ambulance.

- 3) The City has a total of \$ 5,000 in matching funds to be used in addition to this request and we don't expect additional matching funds nor have we requested any. We maintain these vehicles through budgeted Rescue Squad allocations from the general fund.

Columbarium/ Irrigation System

- 1) This is a sixth time request of the Legislature for this project. This is a two part request for the Community Cemetery.

The Mausoleum (Columbarium) is a request by the community as a means to inter cremated family remains. This expands the option of burial. The wall style structure is expandable and would begin at a modest size. Another model is round with access from all sides. Both are capable of holding standard sized urns. The available materials are granite or Corian. Enclosed is an information packet on what the City is considering. (Exhibit D)

- 2) The Irrigation System would allow a more controlled maintenance of the grounds. This is anticipated as a cost savings to the City, which contracts the maintenance, resulting in less time moving sprinklers on the 10+ acres currently in use. Several irrigation systems are available which are proven to be more efficient in the upkeep of our highly regarded cemetery. (Exhibit E)
- 3) The City has \$ 5000 to add to this request of funding. We currently see no additional need for state support other than revenue sharing which helps with the maintenance/ operational costs.

Recreation Center/Multi-use Facility Renovation/Construction

- 1) The City Council listed this request as a number two priority last year. This year it has moved to number six. With the use of Federal GMD Impact funds the facility saw structural and electrical upgrades the summer of 2007. It also saw an addition to the building of Zamboni Room, bathrooms and a referee room.

The building which is essentially a skating rink has several thousand square feet of unused space remaining. Design plans include an expanded viewing and concession area with seating. This area is designed for meetings as well as arcade style and table game recreation for youth. An indoor running track and weight/exercise room would expand the facilities use. An office/rental room would allow volunteer management a central location for operation. These suggested ideas could expand the public use of this 35,000 square foot facility. The community has asked for a more multi-faceted recreation center.

The building is located central to town and is in the campus area of the Elementary and High School. Parking is available for over 100 vehicles. It is operational **seven days a week** in the winter months. The user groups include: USA hockey affiliate, USA figure skating affiliate, elementary school recess skate, high school hockey program, community skate, USA adult hockey league, and private rentals. The building is unused in the summer months. Engineered designs have been conducted and improvements for additional recreation are the next logical step.

- 2) There are no matching funds dedicated at this time. A City Council decision is necessary to add up to \$ 200,000 dollars of available funding for this project.
- 3) The City has only recently had the funding to begin these mentioned improvements. The project cost was greater than the funding available. Previous estimates (2006) put the project at \$ 4.5 million and we have invested (2007) approximately \$ 2 million dollars in the current upgrades. The requested funding, with the engineering and design completed, will be very close to the estimated completion costs. I see no anticipated additional State support should this request be fully funded at the current request of \$ 2.1 million dollars.

The city maintains the building through its General Operations budget, while the Delta Skating Association, the facility's volunteer operators, has operated its programs the past 15 years, through its own fund raising efforts.

- 4) This project has been the subject of request the past two years. Governor Palin visited the facility the fall of 2006.
- 5) The drawings and engineering are complete so the project time line could begin in the spring of 2008 with completion December 2008. The design firm is a local Delta Junction business.

In summary:

- a) The building would have a fire suppression system installed
- b) Heating and ventilation
- c) Expanded viewing area with concessions
- d) Arena office with skate rental room
- e) Locker rooms
- f) Exercise / weight room
- g) Running track

Thank you for the time to elaborate on these priority items for our community. The City Council has reviewed and discussed these priorities with Senator Therriault and Speaker John Harris. Hopefully this overview will further explain the dialog of the meeting.

Please contact me if further information is needed to address the City Council's 2008 Capital Project List.

Sincerely,



Mike Tvenge
City Administrator