

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Petersburg

Project Title:

Petersburg - Public Library Construction

State Funding Requested: \$ 245,000
 Future Funding May Be Requested

House District: 2 - A

Brief Project Description:

Funding for design phase and pre-construction of a new 8,800 square foot public library.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$5,863,449

	<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>
State Funds	\$13,000	07			\$1,000,000	10
Local Funds	\$32,000	08	\$444,000	09		
Other	\$680,000	08	\$3,500,000	09		
Total	<u>\$725,000</u>		<u>\$3,944,000</u>		<u>\$1,000,000</u>	

Explanation of Other Funds:
 \$680,000 / Value of real estate contribution and building demolition.
 \$3,500,000 / Municipal Bonds and Foundation grants.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is a request for \$245,000 for design phase and pre-construction of a new 8,800 square foot public library. The City of Petersburg is planning for the construction of a new public library. This 8,800 square foot library facility will provide an ADA accessible community connection spot to meet friends, relax, and escape the rain. The new library will be an energy efficient and sustainable facility.

The need for a new library in Petersburg is well documented and spans over 30 years. As far back as 1977 the situation at the library was described as 'acute'. Since 1977 community use of the Petersburg Public Library has risen over 1000%. The public library in Petersburg is far smaller than any other Alaskan library that serves a comparable population. It is located on the second floor of the City's municipal building, constructed in 1959. At 2,700 square feet it is less than one-third of the recommended minimum square footage for a library in a community of our size. The library is not in compliance with ADA regulations, ceilings and windows leak, there is not enough room for books, not enough room to sit, no space for children's programs, no work area for staff and no designated parking.

The library will feature easy-to-browse book stacks with space for quiet reading areas and comfortable seating. A soundproof children's room with expanded collections and a story time area will help control noise in the library. There will be more computer workstations to meet the demand and an inviting place for teens with comfortable seating for studying and visiting. Additional, flexible meeting spaces will be available for library activities and community use. Ample parking spaces will ensure each person's library experience is a positive one, even before walking in the door. The facility will be a

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

5:00 PM 4/29/2008

vibrant gathering place for the community as a whole.

The library is the most heavily used free public facility in our community. Petersburg residents make considerable use of their library compared to people elsewhere. In 2007 the Petersburg Public Library checked out 21 items per capita, many more than the average for Alaska (5.79) and five times more than the national average (4.2). The well used collection and public internet access as well as popular programs such as preschool story time and summer reading program brought in 54,000 visits to the library in FY07. In FY07 the library checked out 66,229 items -- a 220% increase in use over 2002.

Use of the Petersburg Public Library continues to grow exponentially despite the fact that many users say that they increasingly avoid the library because of overcrowding, noise, lack of work space and limited comfortable seating. There is usually no place to sit and often it is so busy there is no room to simply stand and browse the collection. With only 12 chairs an average of 170 visits a day, the competition for a chair is fierce and sadly it is often children and teens who are lost in the shuffle. The situation becomes especially critical during the summer when use of the library rises dramatically with the influx of hundreds of visitors and seasonal workers.

Concerned with the need for a new library, civic, business and political leaders have come together and developed a plan which they believe will provide Petersburg with the facility it needs, deserves, and will be a source of great community pride and benefit. Real estate owned by the City of Petersburg has been reserved by City Council to construct a new public library. It is located at the intersection of Haugen Drive and First Street.

The \$650,000 value of this real estate is pledged as a local contribution to the project. The site has been deemed suitable for building with a minimum of preparation by a 2007 geotechnical study. In 2007 the library project was nominated by the Rasmuson Foundation for the Foraker Group's Predevelopment program, a program that provides guidance and technical assistance planning viable, fiscally responsible, capital projects. This funding will be used for design and schematics to be presented to the community of Petersburg as part of a bond package this fall.

Project Timeline:

Funding will be spent in FY09. Overall project timeline FY09-FY13.

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

City of Petersburg

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Richard Underkofler

Phone Number: 772-4519

Address: PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK. 99833

Email: manager@ci.petersburg.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 PETERSBURG
CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST**

Project Name: PETERSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
Project Location: Petersburg, Alaska
Legislative Districts: House District 2; Senate District A

Project Description: The City of Petersburg is planning for the construction of a new public library in the heart of downtown. This 8,800 square foot library facility will provide an ADA accessible community connection spot to meet friends, relax, and escape the rain. The new library will be an energy efficient and sustainable facility. There will be easy-to-browse book stacks with space for quiet reading areas and comfortable seating. A soundproof children's room with expanded collections and a story time area will help control noise in the library. There will be more computer workstations to meet the demand and an inviting place for teens with comfortable seating for studying and visiting. Additional, flexible meeting spaces will be available for library activities and community use. Ample parking spaces will ensure each person's library experience is a positive one, even before walking in the door. The facility will be a vibrant gathering place for the community as a whole.

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Funding Request: FY 2009 Capital Grant \$ 150,000
FY 2010 SB 119 Grant \$ 2,500,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,863,449 (See Project Budget Attached as Appendix A)

Number of Years to Complete Project: 4 years (2007-2011)

Matching Funds Available:	<i>Secured</i>	
	Value of Real Estate Contribution	\$650,000
	Value of building demolition	30,000
	Individual/business contributions	20,449
	State Grant #07-DC-251	13,000
	<i>Pending</i>	
	Municipal bond	\$2,500,000
	SB 119 Grant	2,500,000

Prior State Appropriations: Funds appropriated by FY07 Designative Legislative Grant #07-DC-251 for \$60,000 for a new Community Center will be used for this project. Approval has been received to use the balance of this grant (\$13,000) for a smaller, stand-alone library (Robin Park, Grant Administrator, Community & Regional Affairs, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development)

Are Funds for this Project in the Governor’s Proposed Budget? No

Public Review Process & Community Priority: Hundreds of residents have participated in community surveys, public meetings and presentations about a new library that affirm widespread support for the project. The Petersburg City Council gave this project its second highest priority for capital improvement initiatives that were NOT identified in the Governor’s proposed 2009 budget at a special meeting held January 27, 2008. The City Council also reserved land for the project in December 2007. All building project meetings are well attended by the public, often attracting between 25 – 150 participants. All meetings are also covered by the local media, broadcast over the local radio station and audio recordings of all community consultation, discussion and action at the meetings may be reviewed on the City’s website, www.ci.petersburg.ak.us.

Responsible Party for On-Going Maintenance & Operations Costs: City of Petersburg

Project Contact Information: Richard Underkofler, City Manager
City of Petersburg
P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833
Phone: 907-772-4519, Ext. 22
Cell: 907-518-0472
manager@ci.petersburg.ak.us

Tara Alcock, City Librarian
Petersburg Public Library
P.O. Box 549, Petersburg, AK 99833
Phone: 907-772-3349
libdir@ci.petersburg.ak.us

A new

Public library

for Petersburg



Contact: Tara Alcock, City Librarian Ph: (907)772-3349 Email: libdir@ci.petersburg.ak.us Web: psglib.org

Updated January 28, 2008

our vision

A haven from the rain

Petersburg is planning for the construction of a 7,500 square foot public library in the heart of downtown. It will be a quality, family friendly and financially responsible library for our community to meet friends, relax, and escape the rain.

A bond issue will be presented to the voters in October to cover \$2.5 million of the cost. **The State is asked to match this amount.** The remaining funds will be raised from local donations and foundations. State funding has been an essential funding piece in every new library construction project in Alaska for the last two decades. Alaska's public libraries are key partners in education. Investing in public libraries is a commitment to education that will pay dividends for the future.



“When we return to Petersburg to start our own businesses and families we want a modern and welcoming library to match the vibrant spirit of the town we grew up in.”

- Elsa Sebastian, on behalf of the High School student association

a community effort

1997-2007

- Hundreds of resident have participated in community surveys, public meetings and presentations about a new library that affirm widespread support for the project
- The library project was accepted into the Foraker Group's Predevelopment program, a program that provides guidance and technical assistance planning viable, fiscally responsible, capital projects

2008

- The library project is included on the City's Capital Improvement Projects list for state & federal agencies
- Conceptual designs will be presented to the community for feedback and comment
- A McDowell Group feasibility study & business plan will analyze public support and sustainability
- The community will vote on a temporary 1% sales tax increase to fund the project in October 2008

A 2007 poll found that 85.6% of Petersburg voters believe that Petersburg needs a new library

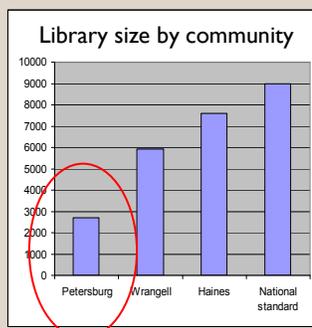
2009-2010

- Our Capital Campaign, conducted by a volunteer group led by the Friends of Petersburg's Libraries, begins. Local fundraising will be ongoing throughout the campaign, with a goal of 100% board member and key stakeholder giving
- When construction funds are in place, construction will begin



needs

- Built in 1959, the library is the most heavily used public facility in Petersburg and the only free public space in our community.
- Petersburg residents make considerable use of their library compared to people elsewhere. Last year the library checked out 21 items for every person in Petersburg, four times more than the average for Alaska (5.79).
- The well used collection and public internet access as well as popular programs such as preschool story time and summer reading program brought in 54,000 visitors to the library last year.
- The library is not in compliance with ADA regulations, ceilings and windows leak, there is not enough room for books, not enough room to sit, no space for children's programs, no work area for staff and no designated parking.



With only 12 chairs and an average of 170 visits a day, the competition for a chair is fierce.

opportunities

- A community connection spot to meet friends, relax, and escape the rain
- A new materials marketplace to find all of the latest books, music and more
- Easy to browse book stacks with space for quiet reading areas and comfortable seating
- A soundproof children's room with expanded collections and a story time area
- More computer workstations to deliver the important resources
- Dedicated teen space with comfortable seating for studying and visiting
- Additional, flexible meeting spaces for more library activities and community use
- Additional parking spaces so that each person's library experience is a positive one, even before walking in the door
- An energy efficient & sustainable facility that will meet our community's needs for generations to come



funding strategy

The Foraker Group's Predevelopment Program is funding the conceptual redesign of the facility as well as contracting with the McDowell Group to do a feasibility study. The library has received a \$15,000 grant from the Alaska State Library to write a comprehensive business plan. The project is also beginning to attract substantial support locally from organizations and individuals.

A ballot initiative for financial support of the project through a temporary (8-10 year) 1% sales tax will be put on the ballot in October 2008. If the initiative passes, this vote will demonstrate community support and leverage foundation and grant funding for the project.



CITY OF PETERSBURG
P.O. BOX 329 • PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833
TELEPHONE (907) 772-4519
FAX (907) 772-3759

April 22, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Karen J. Rehfeld, Director
Office of Management and Budget
P.O. Box 110020
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0020

Re: 2009 Capital Budget

Dear Governor Palin and Director Rehfeld,

I'm writing this letter to provide information for your use and reference as you consider the capital budget recently passed by the legislature.

The Petersburg City Council updates its Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis. There is public review of all projects for which funding will be sought by the City from our state legislators. Priorities are established for projects which will require local matching funds. This year's meeting on capital project priorities was held January 27, 2008. The meeting was broadcast over the local public radio station. An audio recording of the community consultation, discussion and action at the meeting may be reviewed on the City's website, www.ci.petersburg.ak.us.

The City Council gave a proposed new Fire/EMS Facility its highest priority for capital improvement initiatives for FY '09. Second priority was given to improvements necessary at Petersburg's water treatment plant and to the repair of the pipeline that leads from the Cabin Creek Reservoir to the water treatment plant. Third priority was given to completing schematic and design development architectural plans for a new public library so good cost estimates will be available for a \$2.5 million bond issue that will be considered by Petersburg's voters in October of this year. We anticipate that the funds raised by the bond issue will be used to match funds made available by the passage of SB 119 during this legislative session.

Council priorities were not established for capital projects for which local matching funds would not be pledged by the City. The Petersburg Harbor Advisory Board has suggested a "head tax" on tour ships to help underwrite expenditures for upgrading our port facilities. The Commercial Passenger Vessel Berthing and Power Upgrades grant will allow us to perform needed infrastructure improvement on our commercial harbor facilities.

I'm enclosing copies of capital project requests we sent to our legislators for consideration this session. The second page of this letter presents a table that identifies projects contained in the 2009 capital budget that will benefit the Petersburg in descending order of value and sources of matching funds.

I hope you will conclude Petersburg projects contained in the 2009 capital budget are consistent with criteria you've articulated for basic government services; projects that have local community support; and a measure of local, state or federal matching funds. ***Local matching funds have been pledged to all of our thirteen projects.*** All of the projects have community support. There has been no local controversy about any of them.

Petersburg Projects in the 2009 State Capital Budget

Project	Source of Funding	Cost Estimate
New Fire / EMS Facility	State Grant # 07-DC-253 - \$309,000 2009 State Capital Grant - \$5,366,522 Local CIP Fund - \$26,478 In-Kind Contributions - \$1,300,000	\$ 7,002,000
Public Library Construction	State Grant # 07-DC-251 - \$13,000 2009 State Capital Grant - \$150,000 Local G.O. Bond - \$2,500,000 Other Grants & Donations - \$2,520,449 In-Kind Contributions - \$680,000	5,863,449
Water Treatment Plant Improvements, Phase III	2009 State Capital Grant - \$1,250,000 Local Water Fund Debt - \$500,000	1,750,000
Replace Elementary School Roof	2009 State Capital Grant - \$900,582 Local General Fund - \$385,964	1,286,646
Commercial Passenger Vessel Berthing & Power Upgrades	2009 State Capital Grant From Tour Ship Head Tax	1,250,000
Cabin Creek Water Reservoir Pipeline Repairs	2009 State Capital Grant - \$525,000 Local Water Fund Debt - \$225,000	750,000
Airport By-Pass Road Sandy Beach to Scow Bay	2009 State Capital Grant - \$250,000 Local Timber Receipts Fund - \$250,000	500,000
Frederick Point North Subdivision Electrical Transmission Line Extension	2009 State Capital Grant - \$12,000 Local Electric Utility Fund - \$305,000	317,500
Medical Center Pharmacy Information System Module	2009 State Capital Grant - \$34,000 Petersburg Medical Center - \$85,000	119,000
Sons of Norway Hall Renovations	2009 State Capital Grant - \$96,000 Member In-kind Contributions - \$10,000	106,000
Snow Blower Acquisition	2009 State Capital Grant - \$65,000 Local Motor Pool Fund - \$30,000	95,000
Rebuild Solid Waste Baler	2009 State Capital Grant - \$80,000 Local Sanitation Fund - \$5,000	85,000
Shooting Range Improvements	2009 State Capital Grant - \$25,000 Member In-kind Contributions - \$10,000	35,000

Let me close this letter with an invitation to each of you to participate in Petersburg's Little Norway Festival, which will be held from May 15th to May 18th this year. We are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the festival. It would be quite special if you could announce that a grant for renovating the Sons of Norway Hall was included in your FY '09 capital budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Al Dwyer
Mayor of Petersburg

Enclosures