

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Port Lions

Project Title:

Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs

Port Lions - Refurbishment of the Port Lions Causeway

State Funding Requested: \$75,000
One-Time Need

House District: 36 / R

Brief Project Description:

A Project to Refurbish the footbridge that connects the Port Lions side of Settlers Cove to the Port Wakefield side of Settlers Cove. Included in the Project is the cost of materials and labor.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$100,000

	<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>
Rasmuson Foundation			\$25,000	2010		
Local Funds	\$10,000	2009				
Total	\$10,000		\$25,000			

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project is a refurbishment of a footbridge that is very important to our community. It spans Settlers Cove in Port Lions, and was built in the late 1960's by the Wakefield Cannery. At that time, residents homes were located on the westerly side of Settlers Cove, or what we refer to as the "Port Lions side". Most of the residents of Port Lions worked at the Wakefield Cannery which was located at Port Wakefield, now the current site of our City Dock and Ferry terminal. At that time, there was no way to reach the cannery from the westerly side, so the Wakefields built a causeway spanning Settlers Cove for residents to drive across. In the 70's, there were 2 separate incidents of residents going over the edge of the "bridge" in thier vehicles and tragically losing thier lives. After these events, the causeway was closed to vehicle traffic. In the early 70's, a road was built by the State of Alaska, DOT, which connects the two sides and travels around the head of Settlers Cove. Since that time, the causeway has been used by residents in several ways. Those without vehicles who live on the Port Wakefield side, (approximately 25 homes) use the causeway year round to reach City services and the school, (which are on the Port Lions Townsite side). Kids ride thier bikes to school, residents including the elderly walk as a safe, flat, bear free place to get some excercise. It is a well used structure during our summer tourism season as well. The structure is set upon approximately 113 creosote treated pilings which are cross braced.

In the early 1990's, the City of Port Lions refurbished the railings and the walkway however because of available funding, they used untreated material. Since that time, some of the cross bracing has broken due to extreme winters with heavy icing in Settlers Cove and because of the use of untreated material, the railings and walkway have started to rapidly deteriorate. With the partnership of Koniag, Inc., Afognak Native Corporation, the Native Village of Port Lions, and volunteers from Port Lions, the City purchased heavy duty timbers and lag bolts from the Port Bailey Cannery in the fall of 2009. These materials were brought to Port Lions and stored until such time as the City can secure funding for the labor and materials we will need to complete this important project.

The Causeway is an important structure both as a historical part of the founding of Port Lions and as an importnat part of

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**\$75,000
Approved**

the current infrastructure of our community. As we have moved away from a sustaining commercial fishery and more towards the tourism industry as a sustaining force, the causeway is an added feature to that tourism industry which stands out as very unique to Port Lions and Kodiak Island. All who have visited Port Lions both resident and non resident value it in part because of this structure, and we humbly request that a legislative appropriation be made to help the community preserve this historic and valuable structure.

Project Timeline:

The estimated time to complete the project is 30 to 60 days. We plan on starting the work in late Spring, FY 2010.

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

The City of Port Lions has ownership of the tidelands as well as the structure.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: City of Port Lions
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No