



August 2, 2025 Special Assembly Meeting

Station 6-2, 4568 S Knik Goose
Bay Rd, Wasilla

Topic: Public Safety

Purpose and Agenda

Purpose

- Invite State and city officials to discuss public safety initiatives with the Borough Assembly
- Discuss opportunities for a potential shared facility with the Alaska Department of Public Safety and a framework for a regional dispatch (E911) center

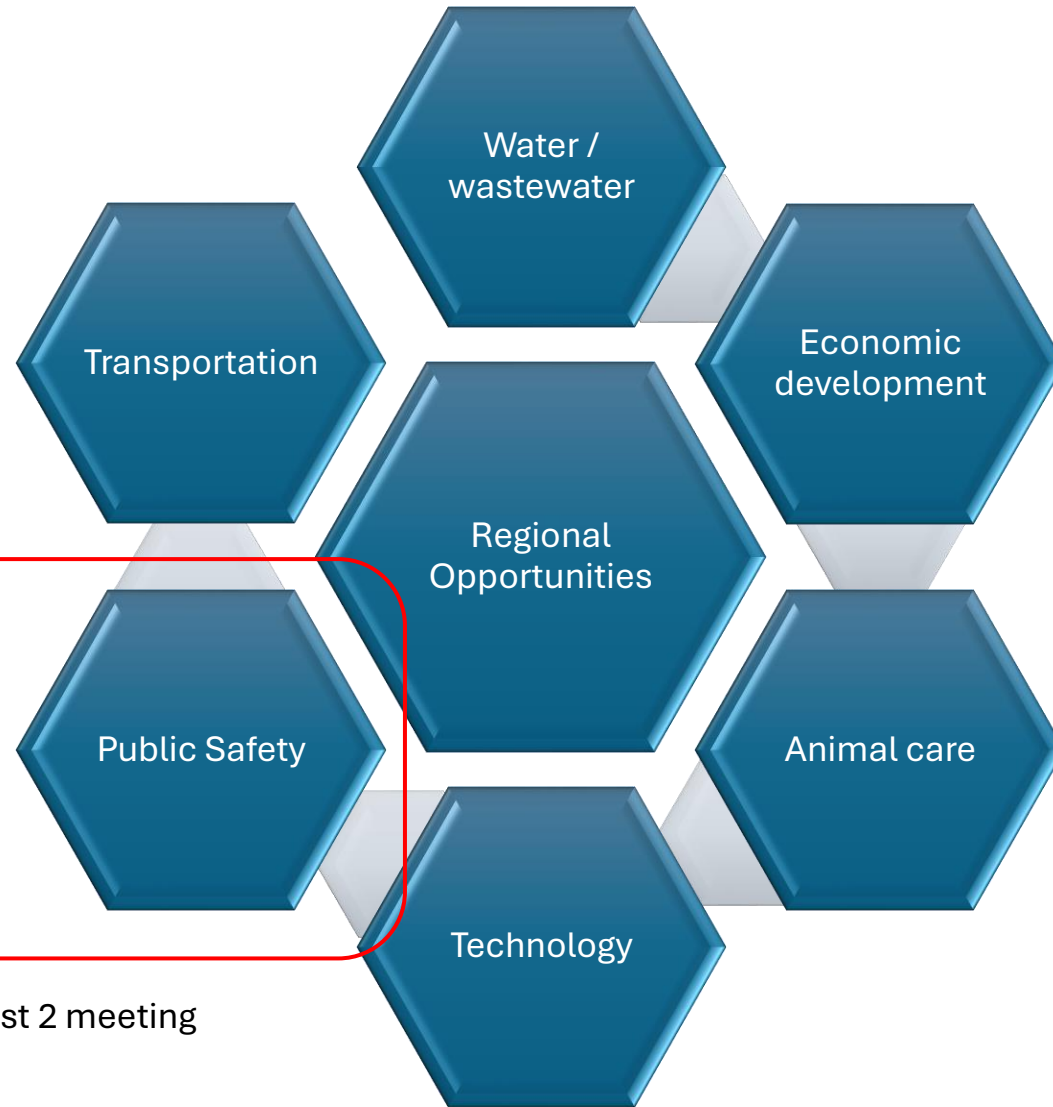
Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Review of regional opportunities**
- **Regional public safety building and recent Legislature intent language**
- **Regional dispatch center**
- **Areawide Animal Care & Enforcement**

Mat-Su Regional Opportunities

- MPO
- Transit

- Water interconnect
- Booster stations



- CEDS
- Summits

- Regional public safety building
- Regional dispatch (E911)

- Areawide coverage requested by cities
- Requires approval by Assembly via ordinance

Discussion focus for August 2 meeting

- Problem Reporter
- Mapping

2025 State Legislature Intent Language in DPS Operating Budget

- It is the intent of the legislature to direct public safety funds to areas of the state that do not have the tax base to provide needed policing services to their communities. The Department of Public Safety executives are urged to meet with officials from three organized, non-unified boroughs in the state, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks North Star and Matanuska-Susitna, who do not currently offer adequate local public safety services and encourage them to take the steps necessary to police their respective boroughs rather than relying on the State to provide those services. The Department shall submit a full response to the Co-chairs of the Finance committees and to the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2025, outlining the communication, feedback, or actions taken by each borough.

Current Policing within MSB

Division	Budgeted Positions	Filled Positions	Vacant Positions
State Trooper	54	49	5
Wildlife Trooper	18	18	0
ABI	11	10	1
SDEU	7	6	1
Total	90	83	7

Alaska State Troopers

**July 1, 2025*

- Wasilla Police Department
 - 28 sworn officers, 31 authorized positions, 7 non-sworn personnel
 - Calls: 2024 - 24,428 / 2025 to date: 14,375
- Palmer Police Department
 - 17 sworn officers, 17 authorized positions, 11 non-sworn personnel
 - Calls: 2024 - 10,014 / 2025 to date: 5,626
- Five School Resource Officers: Colony and Palmer (PPD); Houston, Redington, and Wasilla (WPD); District covers 75% of the cost; Sixth officer planned for CTHS/TMS

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Current Status

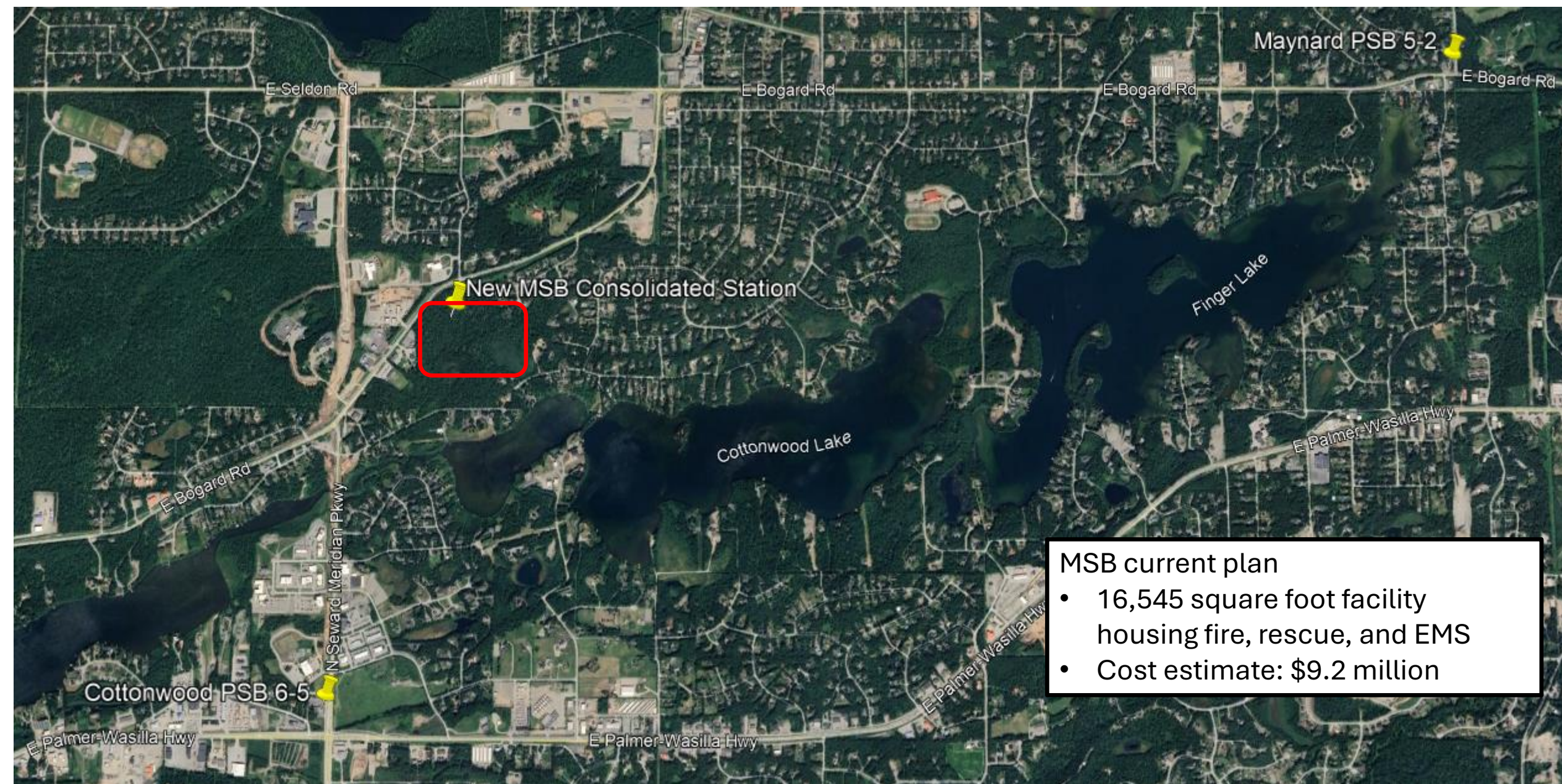
- 7 leases in MSB
- \$600,000 - \$700,000 annually
- Trooper Posts owned in other boroughs

Opportunity

- The intent is to develop a space for DPS entities currently operating in the MSB to be housed together (ABI, AST, AWT, SDEU, Admin Staff) with consideration for other units
- Space between 35,000 - 40,000 sq. ft., which includes large spaces for garage, training rooms, etc., as well as outside storage

Station 6-5 / 5-2

MSB is looking to consolidate Station 6-5 at Seward-Meridian / Palmer-Wasilla Hwy and Station 5-2 at Bogard / Engstrom into one facility



MSB current plan

- 16,545 square foot facility housing fire, rescue, and EMS
- Cost estimate: \$9.2 million

Regional Dispatch (E911)

- Proposal:
 - Upgrade both MATCOM and 9GBase to a common, agreed-upon architecture
 - Develop shared decision-making (governance) including AST, MSB, Palmer, and Wasilla that provides regional benefit and resiliency
 - Integrate personnel, technology, and infrastructure to enhance public safety response capabilities, reduce service duplication, and improve coordination across municipal boundaries
- Currently, two independent centers
 - MATCOM (Wasilla): Call-taking and dispatch for AST, WPD, and all regional fire and rescue (contracts with MSB and DPS)
 - 9GBase (Palmer): Dispatch for PPD
- Efforts to modernize infrastructure are already underway

Areawide Animal Care Services

NEW PROPOSAL:

- Consolidate to **areawide** enforcement to all 3 cities
- Estimated 850+ additional cases/year (Palmer: 200+, Wasilla: 550+, Houston: 100+)
- Increases budget by 1 FTE officer and equipment ~\$300,000 annually
- Recurring budget impact to areawide: .24 mills; net decrease to those outside cities of .049 (\$19.02 average) and increase to city residents of .24 (\$93.14 average)
- Benefits: Consistent enforcement, reduced jurisdictional issues, improved public safety and animal welfare

CURRENTLY:

- Each city currently enforces its own animal care and control code
- 2,000+ annual cases in borough
- Most enforcement in cities handled by:
 - Palmer: Palmer Police Department
 - Wasilla: Code Compliance Officer (day), Wasilla PD (after hours)
 - Houston: Public Safety Director
- Staff: 1 Chief Officer, 4 Officers, 1 1000-hour Officer, 1 Dispatcher

Closing

- What did we agree to take on (milestones, timeline, etc.)?
- Next steps?

