

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 25-072**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING
2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

BOROUGH ACTION PRIORITIES

- A. ALASKA STATE TROOPER STAFFING** – The State Department of Public Safety maintains a number of commissioned positions within the Mat-Su Borough, including those assigned to Alaska State Troopers B Detachment. This detachment is responsible for patrol operations and duties at the Palmer Court. Additional positions in the Borough support specialized units such as Wildlife Troopers, Major Crimes Investigations, Child Crimes Investigations, Special Crimes, and the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. The Borough supports efforts to maintain adequate staffing levels for these roles and to adjust resources as needed in response to population growth and evolving public safety needs.
- B. SUPPORT FOR STATE FORESTRY TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO HARVEST/REMOVE BEETLE-KILLED SPRUCE TO REDUCE FIRE HAZARD** – The spruce bark beetle has killed thousands of acres of spruce trees within the Borough, causing residents to experience significant economic, physical, and emotional loss due to several devastating wildfires over the last several years. The Borough supports the State in seeking State and Federal funding for harvesting and removing these trees to reduce the danger of fire to Borough residents and businesses.
- C. SUPPORT FOR USER-FRIENDLY TRANSPARENT HEALTHCARE PRICING, INCLUDING ADOPTION OF A STATE ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE (APCD)** – Establishing an APCD in Alaska is a key step toward improving transparency in healthcare costs and utilization. It would aggregate non-identifiable data from insurers and providers to support policy analysis, track spending trends, and create a user-friendly website where consumers can comparison shop by comparing procedure prices by provider. While national efforts like the Hospital Price Transparency Rule, adopted in 2019, aimed to make pricing more accessible, many providers continue to post pricing information in arcane formats that effectively block meaningful comparison. Alaska's APCD would fix this and support informed

decision-making by policymakers and consumers. Also, related to healthcare, the Assembly supports Senate Bill 5, amending the current statute to create the opportunity for school districts, cities, and boroughs to optionally participate in AlaskaCare: the State employee healthcare program. These entities would have the choice to opt into the pool as an entire entity, potentially enabling lower costs.

- D. SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL** - The Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 24-099 on October 1, 2024, supports the proposed Alaska Long Trail, while opposing over-reaching restrictions through a National Scenic Trail designation and maintaining Borough land authority and management where applicable, Borough retention of the right to exercise existing and future management plans and economic development opportunities and Borough jurisdiction of management of all Borough trails and uses, and retention of traditional uses of existing trails that are motorized.
- E. SUPPORT FOR MODIFYING ALASKA STATUTE 34.08 - COMMON INTEREST OWNERSHIP ACT** - Support to require common interest communities to conform with local platting authority subdivision regulations. Alaska Statute 34.08 allows for the subdivision of land into "units" and "common elements" without any oversight by the local government. Units resemble lots and can ignore minimum sizes for the safe attenuation of septic generated. Common elements resemble roadways and often do not provide interconnectivity, creating unsafe conditions due to substandard widths and geometric design.
- F. SUPPORT FOR CORPORATE TAX HOLIDAY FOR THE PORT MACKENZIE DISTRICT** - The Assembly supports incentivizing private investment into the Port MacKenzie District through tariff rates and local tax incentives and is requesting State support for creating a State corporate tax holiday for up to 10 years for companies that choose to invest in Port MacKenzie.
- G. SUPPORT FOR ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (ADOT&PF) MAINTENANCE FACILITY IN THE BOROUGH** - The Assembly supports the construction of a new Maintenance and Operations/State Equipment Fleet facility near mile three of Knik-Goose Bay Road. This modern, centrally located facility will improve operational efficiency, incorporate updated technology and energy-saving features, and better serve the growing population of the Borough. The current facility no longer meets service demands, and a new site will improve responsiveness and ensure reliable fleet support.

- H. **KNIK ARM CROSSING** - The Assembly supports development of an alternate transportation corridor between Anchorage and the Mat-Su via the Knik Arm Crossing. This connection would improve safety, emergency response, food security, and economic opportunity by linking major infrastructure and reducing congestion. As growth continues in the Borough, investment in this corridor will help avoid costly future expansions and support long-term regional development.
- I. **STATE LAND TRANSFERS TO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH** - The Borough continues to experience strong growth, driving demand for public facilities, schools, residential subdivisions, commercial leases, and materials like timber and gravel. Most developable Borough land near road systems has already been disposed of, leaving remote parcels that are costly and difficult to develop. To meet growing demand and support future development, the Borough seeks to acquire additional State-owned land near infrastructure and utilities. We propose two changes to State law:
1. Increase the Borough's general grant land entitlement; and
 2. Streamline the process for acquiring entitlement lands.
- J. **FISHERY MANAGEMENT**
- Support collaboration between the State and Federal fisheries management to reduce bycatch.
 - Maintain/increase funding and support for fish weirs in the Borough, coho genetic sampling to improve salmon management, and invasive species suppression programs.
 - Fully match Federal funds from license fees to maximize Federal dollars for fish and game.
 - Maintain the conservation corridor for Northern-bound salmon.
 - Ensure adequate ADF&G staffing to efficiently and effectively execute fishery-related programs.
 - List Susitna king salmon and Little Susitna coho salmon as stocks of yield concern and develop corresponding management action plans.
- K. **OPPOSE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALASKA STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) UNLESS MUNICIPALITIES ARE ALLOWED TO ELECT CHANGES AFFIRMATIVELY** - The Assembly opposes any bills amending the PERS of Alaska allowing for plan design changes unless such bills contain a provision that changes only apply to participating municipalities if the municipalities

affirmatively elect to allow the changes to apply to their municipal employees.

- L. **STATE OF ALASKA VOTER ROLL ACCURACY** - The Borough does not maintain voter registration records. The State should improve its processes to ensure the timely removal of inactive voters, those who have moved, or who no longer vote.
- M. **SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING THE ALASKA ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM AND THE ALASKA ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FUND** - The Assembly supports establishing the Alaska Energy Independence Program and the Alaska Energy Independence Fund. This fund, often referred to as the "Green Bank," would fund sustainable energy projects statewide and benefit the residents and businesses of the Borough by lowering the cost of energy, increasing discretionary income, and creating jobs.
- N. **ADOPT A STANDARD FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA OR A STANDARD FOR THE PRESUMPTION OF BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA** - Marijuana, like alcohol, can cause impairment to mental and physical functions, and raises the probability of injury to people and property, constituting a public safety hazard. There is no level of criminality or presumption of being under the influence of marijuana while driving. A standard will enable the Borough to evaluate better whether local onsite consumption standards need to be set, considering the limits, presumptions, and risks.
- O. **SUPPORT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING SEX OFFENDERS, SEX TRAFFICKING, AND SEX CRIMES** - The Assembly supports Governor Dunleavy's proposed changes to the law regarding sex offenders, sex trafficking, and sex crimes that increase penalties for human and sex trafficking and sex offender registration requirements. Increasing registration requirements to include additional information and requiring more people with out-of-state registration requirements to register if they move to Alaska better protects the community. The proposed changes aim to help prevent sex trafficking by increasing the penalties and making it a more serious crime.
- P. **SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION** - The Borough supports legislation that ensures parental rights in their child's education and opposes legislation intended to limit the inclusion of parents. The Borough supports amendments to State law to provide required notice and affirmative written consent before any activity,

class, or program that includes sensitive and personal content involving gender identity, human reproduction, or sexual matters; rights of parents to designate the official name used by schools when addressing or referring to enrolled students; and prevent school districts from refusing to release sensitive and personal student records to the child's legal parent or guardian. The Borough opposes legislation where medical, mental, or behavioral health services are available to students at school without the express written consent of the parent. Similarly, the Borough opposes legislation permitting non-medical personnel to refer students for any medical, mental, or behavioral health services within the school environment.

- Q. SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH ESTABLISHES A PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT-SELECTED INDIVIDUALS TO BE PERMITTED TO CARRY A FIREARM ON SCHOOL PROPERTY** - The safety and well-being of students are of paramount concern. The Borough supports establishing a program to support school districts in implementing strategies to prevent and address the most severe forms of school violence. Providing legislative measures to limit liability and require appropriate training and support will assist schools across the State in maintaining safe learning environments.
- R. OPPOSE STATE LEGISLATION ENACTING MAJOR CHANGES TO MANDATORY MUNICIPAL TAX EXEMPTIONS** - The Assembly opposes any major changes to mandatory tax exemptions. The Borough is not opposed to optional exemptions that give local governments the authority to adopt them. In this time of higher costs and uncertain fiscal assistance from the State, the Assembly urges the State not to pass mandatory tax exemptions that take away the local government's discretion in implementing local taxes.
- S. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW EXPENDITURES OF THE E-911 SURCHARGE REVENUES TO SUPPORT A BROADER RANGE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS** - Currently, the E911 statute is narrowly written to limit what those funds can be expended on. As an example, E911 funds may only be spent on call taking of the 911 call, and the initial transfer to a dispatcher for the 911 call. 911 funds cannot be spent on follow-up dispatching, radio traffic, or administration of the 911 call (documenting, updating, closing the call, etc.). So a 911 dispatcher may take the call and send the call notification, but any further time dispatching, coordination, etc., related to that 911 call is not an eligible expense under the current

E911 Statute. Some infrastructure can also not be purchased, maintained, or upgraded under the current Statute and interpretation. An example would be paying for upgrading infrastructure to grid power systems to increase the resiliency and redundancy of radio communication towers that first responders utilize to respond to 911 calls. Currently, the Statute does not allow for this type of expenditure. A robust call-taking system is of little help without a robust dispatching and response system to fulfill the mission.

The Borough seeks to broaden the allowable use of the funds by allowing funding for all emergency communications, systems, and staffing related to 911 calls and limiting the need for interpretation to determine allowable expenses.

- T. AMEND STATE LAW REGARDING APPORTIONMENT OF THE BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION WHERE A BOROUGH HAS DELEGATED PLANNING POWERS TO CITIES** - State law currently mandates that Borough Planning Commission membership be apportioned so that a resident of either Palmer or Wasilla get a seat. However, the Borough has already delegated planning and land use power to the cities of Palmer and Wasilla. The Borough Planning Commission does not consider planning and land use regulations inside the cities, and the Palmer and Wasilla Planning commissions do not consider planning and land use regulations outside the cities. The Assembly supports a change to State law to exempt a borough from the mandated proportionality requirement when a borough has delegated planning and land use power to a city.
- U. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW BEVERAGE DISPENSARY LICENSES TO BE TRANSFERABLE FROM AN AREA WITHIN A CITY TO AN AREA WITHIN THE BOROUGH** - AS 04.11.400(k) allows a relocation of an existing beverage dispensary license from a borough into a city in the borough. However, there is no reciprocal mechanism to allow for the relocation of an existing beverage dispensary license from a city into an area of the borough outside of a city. The Assembly supports a change to State law to allow this reciprocal flexibility.
- V. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE FOR MEETINGS TO SATISFY THE ALASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT** - The Alaska Open Meetings Act requires notice of public meetings and is restricted that it "be given using print or broadcast media." The largest newspaper in the State is now only publishing two days a week, and other local newspapers publish intermittently. The Assembly supports changes to State law to

allow timely notice on a municipal website to satisfy the public notice requirement of the Open Meetings Act.

- W. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR LOCAL ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** - At the local level, elected officials include the Mayor, Governing Body, and School Board. State law sets a default term length of three years for each of these. For the Mayor and the Governing Body, State law allows the municipality to change the length of the term up to a maximum of four years. However, there is no such language in the State law pertaining to School Board member terms. State and Federal elections are held every two years, and historical voter turnout records indicate significantly more turnout in the Borough in even-numbered years. In 2024, the Borough changed the Assembly and Mayor to four-year terms. By changing terms to four years and having Borough Mayor and Assembly elections coincide with the State of Alaska elections, more Borough voters will be involved in selecting their local representatives. Local government should have the flexibility to do the same with School Boards. State law must first be changed to allow a municipality, if it chooses, to vary the length of school board terms up to a maximum of four years.
- X. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW FOR TERM LIMITS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** - At the local level, elected officials include the Mayor, Governing Body, and School Board. For Mayor and the Governing Body, State law allows the voters to decide if there should be term limits. However, there is no such language in the State law pertaining to School Board member term limits. In 2007, voters in the Kenai Peninsula Borough attempted to impose term limits on School Board members. After a lawsuit about the legality of the term limits, the Alaska Superior Court in Kenai held that State law does not allow for term limits for School Board Members. See Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers v. Kenai Peninsula Borough, 3KN-07-896CI (Order on Summary Judgment, August 14, 2008). As with the Governing Body and Mayor, there should be a mechanism in State law to allow voters to decide if term limits for the School Board are appropriate in their community.
- Y. AMEND STATE LAW TO ALLOW FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR LOCAL PLANNING COMMISSION** - State law sets a default term length of three years for a municipal Governing Body and Mayor as well as a borough Planning Commission. For the Mayor and the Governing Body, State law allows the municipality to change the length of the term up to a maximum of four years. However, there is no such language in the State law pertaining to

Planning Commission terms. In the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Assembly and Mayor terms are currently four years. Being able to align Planning Commission terms would ensure consistency from the Governing Body and Planning Commission because the terms can be made to coincide. State law should be changed to allow a municipality, if it chooses, to vary the length of Planning Commission terms up to a maximum of four years.

BOROUGH FUNDING PRIORITIES:

1. FULL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT - \$17,162,820 (HD 25-30)

The school bond ballot passed in 2011 permitted the Borough to construct a new secondary school in the Knik community; a new alternative high school in Palmer; a new school in the Wasilla area to meet the needs of Special Education students; an addition to the Career and Technical High School; two new elementary schools in Wasilla and the Knik community; and address many deferred maintenance items. New school construction was necessary to address significant population growth. Due to this ballot measure, the Borough's debt service payments continue through 2035.

One of our greatest challenges to developing an economic budget that delivers the services our citizens demand is the unpredictability of fully funding State school bond debt reimbursement in previous years. The Borough requests full funding of this program to include reimbursement for the \$4,614,596 not fully funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and the \$12,548,224 for FY 2027.

2. PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION (PMRE) PROJECT (HD 30) - \$275,000,000

The Borough requests funding to complete the PMRE construction. A new railroad approximately 32 miles long will be constructed, extending from the railroad mainline near Houston, Alaska, to Port MacKenzie (Port), a deep draft seaport. Port MacKenzie is strategically located on the opposite side of the Upper Cook Inlet from Anchorage and has ample landside space for bulk commodity storage, multimodal transfers, and unit train capabilities. The State of Alaska has already invested \$184,000,000 in funding for this project.

The requested funding would complete the construction of the rail extension to the Port, resuming work that halted in 2017 owing to a depletion of available funds. The PMRE would

establish rail service at Port MacKenzie, the closest deepwater port to Interior Alaska, a region experiencing significant economic growth. This would enable exports of raw materials from Alaska to global markets.

3. NON-BOROUGH CERTIFIED ROADS UPGRADES - \$10,000,000 (HD 25-30)

The Borough is the fastest-growing area in Alaska. Many miles of roads constructed over the past several decades were not built to Borough standards, have substandard gravel bases, lack sufficient right-of-way and sight distance, and are not designed or constructed for the traffic they carry. Improvements to these roads will ensure that the functionality and safety of the roads meet the proper classification and design standards. Funding would be utilized to upgrade various unmaintained roads and certify them for Borough maintenance. Unmaintained roads within each of the Borough's Assembly Districts are provided here: <https://www.matsugov.us/unmaintainedroads>.

4. JONESVILLE PUBLIC SHOOTING PARK - \$3,000,000 (HD 29)

This is a new project for the Alaska State Moose Range Jonesville Public Use Area. This high-priority recreation facility will provide safety for recreational shooters, other users, and community members.

The Jonesville Public Use Area is a highly visited, multi-use area used year-round. Currently, shooting occurs in and around undesignated campsites, through main access trails and tracks, and along the Slipper Lake water body. The design and development of a designated shooting area and ranges with restrooms would provide critical health and safety facilities to this recreation area. The Borough Assembly has already appropriated over \$1 million to support this project.

5. WILLOW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY - \$5,000,000 (HD 30)

Willow urgently needs a modern joint public safety facility in its core area along the Parks Highway. The current Fire Station 12-1 is outdated and lacks essential infrastructure to support fire, EMS, and law enforcement services. The proposed facility would house the Willow Fire Department, a full-time ambulance and rescue unit, and provide space for law enforcement operations.

The Borough Assembly has appropriated \$3.5 million for the project, with an additional \$700,000 secured for design through a State Legislative appropriation. Additional funding

is needed to complete the facility. Without it, only EMS needs can be addressed, limiting the project's scope and impact.

The new facility will utilize a Borough-owned 16-acre lot with completed site work and utilities, reducing overall costs. It will include training areas, living quarters, and decontamination facilities, critical for responder health and emergency response. Currently, EMS units must respond from Big Lake, increasing response times.

A single, integrated facility will reduce costs and meet the growing public safety needs of Willow and the surrounding Parks Highway corridor.

6. EDUCATION SUPPORT:

Sustainable and predictable funding for K-12 public education programs continues to be a priority for the Mat-Su. Foundation Formula funding was recently increased, however, future inflation should be addressed. Transportation funding does not cover the cost of this important service and has no inflation-proofing or cost-escalation language. The Alaska Reads Act continues to be a powerful educational expectation, but without the needed funding to support its effective implementation. Correspondence students continue to receive funding below their peers, and do not receive funding multipliers for special needs and career and technical education. The Borough supports increases in a multi-year, sustainable, and comprehensive fiscal plan with tangible educational outcomes.

The Borough supports ending the moratorium on school bond debt reimbursement that went into effect on January 1, 2015. Schools, including construction and major renovation of school buildings, comprise a major portion of local expenditures. End the moratorium and allow local governments to again engage in 70 percent State - 30 percent Borough split for qualified school bond debt reimbursement projects.

7. FISHERY PROTECTION - \$2,500,000 (HD 25-30) - In 2015, a strategic Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Plan for Upper Cook Inlet was conducted, resulting in improved resource management through genetic stock analysis, economic impact studies, and improved funding of Northern District weirs. In 2025, the plan will be a decade old, five years beyond its stated relevant time horizon. Since the last plan, there have been significant declines in salmon populations in the Borough. An update to this plan would provide a list of

prioritized goals and strategies that support healthy salmon populations and habitat, and an opportunity for public and agency engagement in guiding strategies for the future.

Additionally, this funding would be utilized to support ongoing work on the Borough's fish passage program, secure more consistent funding and operations of Northern District weirs and genetic studies, execute pike suppression efforts, resume operation of the Upper Cook Inlet commercial test net fishery, operate a Susitna River Sockeye Salmon mark/recapture abundance estimate, provide an update to the 'Economic Contributions of Sportfishing on the Cook Inlet Region in 2017' study, and ensure additional cataloging of local streams, rivers, and habitat essential for healthy fish and wildlife populations.

Quality fisheries management for Upper Cook Inlet should not only prioritize the procurement of funding for projects but should also ensure adequate staffing to operate and execute the programs efficiently. In a region with such extensive and essential anadromous fish habitat surrounding a rapidly growing population center, and with declining salmon stocks, it is necessary for our region to continue monitoring and investing in tools, data, and information that support healthy local salmon populations and productive Northern Cook Inlet and Mat-Su fisheries.

8. FLOOD AND EROSION MITIGATION FOR SUSCEPTIBLE ROADS - \$2,000,000 (HD 28, 29, 30)

There are roads within the Borough that are susceptible to annual flooding and erosion. They have been identified, but are too large to be improved using road service area funds. These range from subdivision roads to large collector roads, which provide vital transportation links to residents' homes and businesses. Funding for this project would allow for the flooding and erosion to be mitigated through road realignment, raising the road embankment, installing armoring, installing larger culverts, and providing adequate ditches and drainage easements. These roads include Mariah Drive, Curtis Drive, Burma Road, Hart Lake Loop, Rutan Avenue, and Skyvan Circle.

9. NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION LINE TO PORT MACKENZIE - \$57,000,000 (HD 30)

This project proposes the construction of a 15-mile natural gas transmission line extending from the Beluga Natural Gas Transmission Line at Ayrshire Road to Port MacKenzie,

following the Point MacKenzie Road right-of-way. The line will deliver natural gas to the Port, surrounding district lands, and other users along the corridor.

The project will support a wide range of industrial and commercial activities by providing access to natural gas. At the Port, natural gas will be used for heating, powering equipment for mineral processing, and enabling the production of hydrogen-derived fuels such as synthetic aviation fuel (SAF). The availability of natural gas also opens the door to power generation for emerging industries like data centers and other technology-driven operations.

With over 8,000 acres of land zoned for industrial and commercial use within the Port district, this infrastructure investment lays the foundation for transforming the area into a thriving industrial hub for Alaska. Access to natural gas is essential for attracting and sustaining business growth, making this project a catalyst for long-term economic growth.

10. PAVEMENT PRESERVATION - \$17,150,000 (HD 25-30)

The Borough has over 550 miles of paved roads that are in various stages of deterioration. Pavement degradation is a gradual process influenced by various factors such as weather, traffic loads, and environmental conditions. To address these issues and extend the pavement's lifespan, a systematic approach to maintenance is crucial. The choice of specific treatment for a given street segment depends on the severity of deterioration and the desired level of pavement performance. The following roads are candidates for preventative measures to protect against further deterioration and to extend the life of the pavement. Lupine Lane; Sunrise Road; Horseshoe Lake Road; Mulchatna Drive; Bull Moose Drive; Gail Drive; Soapstone Road; Edgewater Drive; Sushana Drive; Tern Drive; Buttercup Drive.

11. TALKEETNA DIKE AND REVETMENT - \$20,000,000 (HD 30)

The Talkeetna revetment and dike protect the townsite of Talkeetna from floods and erosion from three major rivers. The voters in Talkeetna voted to create a Flood Service Area, which partially funds periodic maintenance and repairs. While this service area encompasses the majority of Talkeetna, the tax base is insufficient for the complete replacement or major repair of the revetment and dike. In 2023, the Borough partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for an erosion study in anticipation of needing a

major repair or replacement of the existing infrastructure under the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program. This study evaluated the erosion from the channel migration of the Susitna River. The course change moved the main river channel from a glancing sweep in front of Talkeetna, to a full-frontal assault on the dike and revetment. Erosion repairs were made to the dike and revetment in 2017, 2020, 2023, and 2024. The study's findings are provided in the December 2023 USACE report. This study provides only planning-level detail and does not include a design or cost estimate for project construction or additional funding.

The Borough submitted a request to USACE for assistance via Section 14 of the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) to develop and approve a construction project. USACE informed MSB that the Section 14 program funding was not able to cover the MSB's request.

Emergency protective measures completed by the Borough are not a permanent solution. Riverbank erosion continues to occur and threatens vital infrastructure and properties within the community of Talkeetna. The Borough is providing maintenance of the dike and revetment as funding allows.

In late summer 2025, the Borough requested Federal assistance through the Section 8315 program, which requires a 10 percent local match if the Talkeetna area is considered disadvantaged; if not, then the match would be 35 percent. Current funding via Section 14 for small flood control projects has a cap of \$20,000,000 with a 35 percent local match requirement. The funding requested would design and construct the needed infrastructure to protect Talkeetna.

12. STATE MATCH FOR VOTER-APPROVED 2023 MSB TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE - \$19,985,500 (One-half of \$39,971,000) (HD 25-28, 30)

In November of 2023, Borough voters authorized issuance of bonds for the Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP23). The Borough is seeking a 50 percent (50%) match to pay for projects that aim to reduce traffic congestion, support economic development, improve connectivity, enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety, increase reliability, and provide transportation choices for residents. Project nominations for TIP23 came from various sources, including Borough residents, Borough staff, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, the Transportation Advisory Board

(TAB), the cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston, and the Local Road Service Area Advisory Board (LRSAB).

TIP 2023 projects needing match include (values represent 50% of estimated project cost):

- Hemmer Road Extension South - \$2,945,000; HD 25
- Green Forest Drive Reconstruction - \$3,110,500; HD 28
- Museum Drive Extension - \$3,068,500; HD 27
- Burma Road Upgrades - \$5,792,500; HD 30
- Yoder Road Reconstruction: Talkeetna Spur to Southfork Road - \$2,619,500; HD 30
- Jolly Creek Drainage Improvements - \$976,500; HD 30
- Earl Drive, Eek Street Pavement Rehabilitation: Bogard to Finger Lake Elementary School - \$246,500; HD 28
- Gershmel Loop Pavement Rehabilitation off of Fireweed Road - \$323,500; HD 26
- School Site Traffic and Safety Improvements: Finger Lake Elementary School - \$742,000; HD 28
- Big Lake Boat Launch Access and Parking Lot Reconstruction - \$161,000; HD 30

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2025.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)