

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2006-013**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD,
ALASKA, APPROVING THE CITY OF SEWARD'S CALENDAR YEAR 2006
REVISED STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, annually the City compiles a list of projects or issues that are identified as top state legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the list of projects is compiled and distributed to the Alaska Congressional delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the City of Seward's lobbyists; and

WHEREAS, this prioritized list validates the projects and greatly focuses the efforts of the administration in our lobbying efforts; and

WHEREAS, all the projects on this list are consistent with the City's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. This list of legislative projects is hereby declared to be the official legislative priority list for the City of Seward for the 2006 State legislative session:

PORT AND HARBOR

1. \$6.5 million for inner-harbor improvements/T-dock bulkhead/ travelift dock/ 3-stage dock
2. \$2.8 million for SMIC ship repair infrastructure improvements

ROADS AND STREETS

1. \$2.25 million for street repair
2. \$38 million for mile 18-25.5 Seward Hwy
3. \$20.6 million for mile 25.5-36 Seward Hwy

PUBLIC FACILITIES

1. \$18 million for Long Term Care Facility
2. \$10 million for Jesse Lee Home leadership school

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INFRASTRUCTURE

1. \$4 million for replacement of two electric generators
2. \$2 million for water storage tank
3. Life safety facility repair
 - a. \$225,000 for Senior Center
 - b. \$85,000 for Fire Department
 - c. \$75,000 for Jail
 - d. \$85,000 for Public Works
 - e. \$225,000 for Warehouse

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 23rd day of January, 2006.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA

Vanta Shafer, Mayor

**AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:**

ATTEST:

Jean Lewis, CMC
City Clerk

(City Seal)

COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2006

From: Clark Corbridge, City Manager

Clark 1-19-06

Agenda Item: Calendar Year 2006 State Legislative Priorities



BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

Annually the City compiles a list of projects or issues that we identify as our top legislative priorities. The list of projects is compiled into a package that is then distributed to the Governor's Office, our legislators, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (for inclusion in their legislative package), and our lobbyist. This prioritized list validates the projects and greatly focuses the efforts of the Administration in our lobbying effort as we seek funding or other resolution through State government.

The following list, which is submitted to the City Council for review and approval.

PORT AND HARBOR

1. \$6.5 million for inner-harbor improvements/T-dock bulkhead/ travelift dock/ 3-stage dock
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CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

Where applicable, this agenda statement is consistent with the Seward City Code, Charter, Comprehensive Plans, Land Use Plans, Strategic Plan and City Council Rules of Procedures.

FISCAL NOTE:

The fiscal impact of this resolution is our state legislative lobbying effort. The contract for our state lobbyist is budgeted for as well as travel by the City Administration.

Approved by Finance Department *Kristen Kuchinger*

RECOMMENDATION:

Council approve Resolution 2006-013, approving the City of Seward's Calendar Year 2006 State Legislative Priorities.

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: INNER-HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS/T-DOCK
BULKHEAD/TRAVELIFT DOCK/3-STAGE DOCK

Priority: #1 Port and Harbor

Funding Needed: \$6.5 million

Funding Source: To be determined

Project Description/ Justification:

The East Harbor Expansion Project began in January 2004. The City of Seward and the Army Corp. of Engineers are currently in the process of expanding the Small Boat Harbor eastward to the Coal Dock. The project is under construction and will be completed in the spring of 2006 at a cost of \$10 million.

Improvements to the T-dock and I-dock; plus a new bulkhead, Travelift dock and three stage dock will significantly improve facilities for the commercial fishing fleet. The existing facilities, constructed as early as 1965, are in poor condition and in need of repair and upgrade to adequately serve the commercial fishing fleet. The existing docks provide 3342 lineal feet of moorage, which is used primarily for the commercial fishing fleet. The modifications and upgrades will increase the lineal moorage to 3662 lineal feet. Repairs will be made using a Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development grant; however, additional funds are requested to complete this project, which will consist of a new bulkhead and Travelift dock for the new 50 ton Travelift.

The Seward Small Boat Harbor planning and development guide completed in June 2003, estimates total improvements required for the small boat harbor to cost \$36 million. This plan considers a new float system for the south harbor and east harbor area, replacement of old and deteriorated floats in the existing north and south harbors, rehabilitation improvements of the existing T-dock and I-Dock, new bulk heads and Travelift pit to the north side of the harbor, three stage dock, maintenance area, parking areas, restroom facilities, office and shop to be completed in phases as funding becomes available.

The first phase of inner harbor floats at an estimated cost of \$7.8 million is currently being installed in 2005-06. The first phase includes new floats in the expanded harbor and some extensions of existing floats. The City increased moorage rates 13% to secure 1.5 million in revenue bonds for Phase I. In 2006, the City increased moorage rates 10% and passenger fees in order to secure an additional \$4.5 million in revenue bonds for Phase II. The City is seeking an additional \$6.5 million to assist in the completion of Phase III, 880 foot Z-float and completion of the T-dock, bulkhead, and Travelift dock projects.

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: SMIC SHIP REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
Priority: #2 Port and Harbor
Funding Needed: 2.8 million
Funding Source: To be determined

Project Description/ Justification:

The Seward Marine Industrial Center Syncrolift facility was originally built in 1983. The Syncrolift has the capacity of lifting a 5,000 ton vessel of up to 350 feet in length. Although the facility was originally built in 1983, no upland ancillary improvements were constructed at that time. A minimal rail and transfer system, less than half of the original design, was constructed in 1988. A shop building and employee restroom/locker room facility was constructed in 2002. In order to maximize facility functions and increase the number of size of vessels that can be worked on at the same time, \$2.8 million is being requested to expand the transfer pit and rail for the shipyard.

The Syncrolift was designed with the Alaska Marine Highway and the United States Coast Guard in mind. The lift was designed and built to be capable of lifting the Alaska Marine Highway M/V Tugitena and the numerous USCG Cutters in Alaska. Over the years the Seward Syncrolift Facility has been utilized to complete both routine maintenance and major over-hauls for the Alaska Marine Highway, U.S. Coast Guard and more recently the Alaska Marine Terminal response and escort vessels in Valdez. With current improvements the shipyard realizes approximately 35% of its potential, employing approximately 50 FTE's on an annual basis. Completion of the above project will increase the capacity of the shipyard to meet its designed potential, current market demands and will increase employment.

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: UPGRADE STREETS AND SIDEWALKS
Priority: #1 Roads and Streets
Funding Needed: 2.25 million
Funding Source: To be determined

Project Description/ Justification:

This project would resurface portions of the 25 miles of paved roads that lie within the City limits. Presently, the driving surfaces of the majority of roads in the city limits have deteriorated to a point that repaving is the only solution. The condition of potholes, frost heaves and failure of shoulders, have made road maintenance very difficult and costly. The City's budget for maintenance and repair of roads in budget year 2004 was \$44,900. The 2005 budget for maintenance and repair of roads is \$71,250, a direct result of increased maintenance costs associated with the City's attempt to sustain safe driving surfaces in the City of Seward.

The City is requesting funding in the amount of \$2.25 million to help repave road surfaces, reconstruct and/or add new sidewalks and improved drainage systems which will help the road surfaces last longer.

DRAFT

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: MILE 18 TO 25.5 SEWARD HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS
Priority: #2 Roads and Streets
Funding Needed: \$38 million
Funding Source: Statewide Transportation improvement Plan

Project Description/ Justification:

This project includes the reconstruction of the Seward highway from Mile 18 at Snow River to Mile 25.5 at Trail River. The project includes widening the right of way and a grade separated railroad crossing at Crown Point, replace bridges at Sutor Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, Falls Creek and Trail River; rehab pavement and construct passing lanes. One million dollars is in FY05 for right of way. This project is long overdue and has become a safety issue resulting in a number of fatalities and must become a higher priority in the State's network of most significant roads.

DRAFT

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: MILE 25.5 TO 36 SEWARD HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS
Priority: #3 Roads and Streets
Funding Needed: 20.6 million
Funding Source: Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

Project Description/ Justification:

This project includes the reconstruction of the Seward Highway from Mile 25.5 at Trail River to Mile 36 at the Sterling Wye. The project will rehabilitate the road way and includes resurfacing, safety improvements and passing lanes as needed. The project has \$450,000 in FY06 for right of way. This project keeps slipping in the STIP and is a safety concern and has resulted in fatalities and must become a higher priority in the state's network of most significant roads.

DRAFT

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY
Priority: #1 Public Facilities
Funding Needed: \$18 million for construction
Funding Source: To be determined

Project Description/ Justification:

The Seward General Hospital was a 30 plus year old hospital struggling to break even. In 1996 the City built a new replacement facility and entered into a management agreement with Providence Health Services of Alaska (PHSA) to manage the facility as Providence Seward Medical Center. Located adjacent to the hospital is the Wesley Care Center built in 1942 which has operated independently until May 2003, at which time it became co-located with the acute care hospital facility for the purpose of sustaining the financial viability of health care services in Seward. Under the management agreement with the City, Providence operates the hospital and long term care facility with financial responsibility falling to the City rather than to Providence.

Wesley opened originally as a territorial tuberculosis sanitarium. A substantial expansion was built in 1970 with the core infrastructure existing in a high risk environment that requires substantial human and financial resources to monitor, repair and work around. For example, the state fire marshal has noted a number of code violations that are impossible to correct due to compliance in the old building. Other problems included inadequacy of license nursing staff and absence of care systems resulting in the state of Alaska requiring that a long term solution be found. This resulted in the current co-location and in a management contract with Providence including an agreement to replace the aged nursing facility.

The hospital relies heavily on the consistent cash flow from the nursing home to maintain the ancillary services of the hospital (e.g. accounting, laundry, building maintenance, administration) which help to reduce redundant services at both facilities, generating substantial cost savings. Co-location is the only mechanism under which we can maintain a financially viable acute care hospital in Seward so the two facilities are critically intertwined.

The concept design and preliminary program for the replacement of Wesley provides for 40 nursing home residents in a 33,872 square foot building at a construction cost of \$275 to \$310 per square foot.

2006 City of Seward STATE Legislative Priorities



Project Title: JESSE LEE HOME LEADERSHIP SCHOOL
Priority: #2 Public Facilities
Funding Needed: \$10 million
Funding Source: Undetermined

Project Description/ Justification:

The City of Seward needs funding to support a statewide educational program in Seward. This school will identify the educational needs of the State of Alaska. The City of Seward believes that an educational program situated in Seward could provide a unique educational opportunity to school children throughout the State. This educational program will partner with the existing educational facilities in the City including the Seward High School, the Alaska Vocational Technical Center, the National Forest Service, the National Park Service, Alaska Science Learning Laboratories and the Alaska SeaLife Center. This facility would reside at the historical Jesse Lee Home, a unique architectural and cultural landmark in Seward. The Jesse Lee Home is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a prime location for an educational facility.

The Jesse Lee Home served as a vital need for the children of the territory of Alaska over a forty (40) year period beginning in the mid-1920s. The Home was a refuge for housing, education and health care at a time when influenza and tuberculosis epidemics exacted a devastating toll on remote, Native communities. The Jesse Lee Home has several distinguished alumni. The most famous of these alumni is Benny Benson who was a resident of the Home. Benny Benson, as a seventh grader, won a competition to design the Alaskan flag. The unique design included the Big Dipper and the North Star. The first Alaska flag was raised on this site in Seward, Alaska on July 9, 1927. This date is still commemorated as Alaska Flag Day. It is evident that this site is an extremely important State and City resource. Currently, the City of Seward owns the property and existing infrastructure.

The Jesse Lee Home suffered extensive damage from the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake and was abandoned. Since then, the property has suffered further neglect and deterioration. The Jesse Lee Home is in dire need of renovation if it is to continue to represent a part of Alaska's heritage and become, once again, a distinguished state landmark. It has been acknowledged that the deterioration of the building is to the point that if restoration does not occur soon this resource will be lost forever.

In 2000, the City of Seward identified the Jesse Lee Home's restoration needs were beyond the City's capacity and requested State support. In 2001, the State

legislature passed House Bill 0096C, recognizing the Jesse Lee Home as a site of historic significance for all people of the State of Alaska and directed the Department of Natural Resources to determine the costs and procedures necessary for its preservation, development, and management. In 2003, the Department of Natural Resources completed the Jesse Lee Home Historic Structure Report, detailing the means necessary to restore the structure. Today in January of 2006, the City of Seward continues to seek state support for this unique site.

In May 2005 a group of citizens from across the State of Alaska met to pursue the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home. This group has since met on several occasions to discuss the best use for the Jesse Lee Home. Individuals from Alaska Children's Services, the Alaska Department of Education, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, CIRI, Chugach Alaska Corporation, the City of Seward, ECI / Hyer, Inc., House of Representative Seaton's office, J. Properties, the Rasmuson Foundation as well as other concerned individuals are represented.

It was determined that the Department of Education is seeking alternative educational programs to supplement the existing system. Seward, with its existing educational facilities and rural location, would be an ideal site for such a program using the Jesse Lee Home as a residential and classroom facility.

In July 2005, the Seward City Council unanimously approved a resolution of support for the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home as a City priority. In August of 2005, the Seward City Council approved another resolution authorizing City Administrative support and delegating the Historical Preservation Commission and Administration to apply for grants seeking funding for the restoration of the Jesse Lee Home with the intended use as an educational facility. In January 2006, the Seward City Council included the Jesse Lee Home as one of the top ten (10) priorities on the state priority list.

The City believes that the entire State would benefit from this unique educational facility. Within a short frame of time, the Jesse Lee Home will be lost as a historic resource for future generations. House Bill 0096-C provides language for the State Department of Natural Resources to go back to the legislature and appropriate funds to acquire the Jesse Lee Home, develop and manage it.