



City of Homer

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Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR LORD AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK
DATE: JUNE 23, 2025
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

c. Mayor's Report

Memorandum from Mayor re: AKDOT Meeting with City of Homer on State Road Projects **page 3**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

Public Comment received. **page 6**

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Public Comment received on the Closure of the HERC "Green Room" **page 7**



MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska Department of Transportation Projects Meeting

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Homer City Council
Date: June 23, 2025
From: Rachel Lord, Mayor
cc: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

On Friday, June 13, I was invited to join a meeting at City Hall with AK Dept. of Transportation and City Staff. At the table from ADOT was Sean Holland (Central Region Director), Jason Baxley, and Aaron Hunting (remote). From the City we had Melissa, Dan, Leon, and Mike Z. I asked a lot of questions, and took a lot of notes. Below is the email I sent to everyone at the table following the meeting. I would like to get a resolution at our next meeting (July 28) regarding safety concerns to highlight in the Sterling Highway project coming through town (MP 169-175). You can see the list that we discussed, but please bring forward any additional areas to highlight for inclusion!

*Thanks so much for the meeting today. It's valuable to be able to sit at a table and talk through the various projects and questions. I took some notes, and am going to outline my understanding of next steps. Please respond with any corrections or things I have misunderstood or misrepresented! **ADOT lead** / **City lead***

Spit Erosion:

- 4-6 weeks estimated until the funding is available
- **ADOT will be appointing a project manager (when?)**
- Convening a multi-agency workgroup - **Sean/ADOT will review, follow up in the next few weeks to figure out a plan.**
- **Dan mentioned ADEC funding award to the City, add to the conversation for planning and more information and will get more info with Jenny**
- **TIME CONSTRAINTS:** Fall storm season, need coordinated engagement with stakeholders.

Diamond Creek Pedestrian Underpass:

- ADOT will develop a plan/menu of options for the City to review and consider by August - the preferred option for the Homer community is an underpass near/at Diamond Creek
- City will engage with Homer Trails Alliance/community to discuss the thoughts around alternative option of an underpass at Diamond Ridge Road - internal discussion of plan to do that.
- Outstanding considerations include: could a trail be built in the state ROW - depending on builder, to what standards? what permitting paths exist? / what kind of maintenance agreement would the City be open to? / project costs and match funding possibilities
- Leon & Sean are going to walk the area Friday
- TIME CONSTRAINTS: Finalize plans by December 2025

Sterling Hwy MP 169-175

- Mayor will work with staff to bring forward a resolution that outlines safety concerns along the Sterling Hwy through town (also, see below - but a reso will allow us to get full Council input)
- Significant issues in the City needing to be addressed:
 - KPB Transfer Facility - dangerous curve/entrance, consult with KPB staff
 - Drainage at Baycrest - Mount Augustine Drive. The City has a HUGE amount of information that can be shared again at DOT's request
 - Soundview / Hwy intersection - school turning area safety concerns + new 25 house development going in right there on the other side of the hwy
 - Ocean Drive Loop/end of bike path intersection
 - FAA Dr. intersection
 - Kachemak Way intersection (new hotel permitted for building on the west side)
- ADOT will communicate back with the City on the options for implementing these priorities through this, or other, projects WHEN?
- TIME CONSTRAINTS: ASAP? Not clear, programmed for FY27 R1 pavement preservation

Kachemak Drive

- Resurfacing is on the list, going out to bid this year. Work pending, possibly not starting till next season.
- At that point - ADOT will lead in the process and work with the City to plan forward the long-term needs and plans for ROW access, utilities, drainage, etc. for long-term success on Kachemak Drive.
- TIME CONSTRAINTS: The long-term fixes won't happen until we start planning in earnest.

East End Road

- City requested a speed reduction study, unclear on who's court the ball is in right now. Understanding is that a study has been done? City was told we need to collect public feedback, but waiting to understand onwhat exactly, to ensure we don't waste anyone's time.

-
- *City (Melissa) will ask HPD how/if crash data are reported anywhere and share back to the group*
 - *ADOT will get back to the City ASAP on what needs to happen next to move this decision-making process forward.*
 - *TIME CONSTRAINTS: No hard deadlines were expressed, but continued heightened community interest*

HAPP Loop/TAP

- *City has in-kind work for match funds with designs ready to roll with ADOT for part of the project.*
- *ADOT is going to get information back to the City ASAP on what needs to happen next to get this project moving (incl. project manager?)*
- *TIME CONSTRAINTS: July 15, but unclear if that will be met; unsure what the ramifications of that will be. Original project scope continues to escalate in cost due to time.*

Again, my gratitude for the time and work everyone does on behalf of the people here in the City and across the region.

From: [Tara H.](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: Letter to be included in June 23d City council documents
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 10:48:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Letter written to be submitted for today's June 23d City Council meeting (Homer, Alaska).

Dear City Manager, Mayor, & City Council:

Thank you so much for moving forward with a proposed audit of HVFD. I appreciate that you have been open to listening to previous HVFD volunteers who have come forward. So many of us care deeply about HVFD & the services it provides.

I request to have Homer community members involved in the audit. Homer is extremely unique, and without involvement from the community, I believe the audit will be much less successful in pointing out both HVFD's strengths & weaknesses. Community members with different backgrounds would be ideal to help mitigate bias and provide multiple perspectives (some who have known HVFD & the Homer medical community well for decades, and some who have participated in the community long-term in other ways).

If Homer members are not able to participate directly in an examination of HVFD, I ask for the audit team to work closely with members of the community who can:

- A) Help point out what needs to be looked into.
- B) Help explain our town's values & history.
- C) Provide further context into our community.

Thank you again for listening. So many of us still love EMS, but have left HVFD because of either A) being pushed out and/or B) drifting away after finding HVFD's culture to be toxic. I know many of us would be interested in returning to Homer EMS if the culture and system for resolving issues is fixed.

Thank you again, it means more than you know.

- Tara Hueper (previous HVFD 2022-2024)

From: [Adele Person](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: HERC building "Green Room" closure - Is a temporary fix possible?
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 4:26:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

All last winter, I and a number of others have been taking a strength training class at the HERC's "Green Room" under the umbrella of the City of Homer Recreation Program. This class is very important to me and the others who take it. There are other classes that have been using that space as well - karate, zumba, etc - and these activities help Homer folks stay active, connected and healthy, especially in winter.

As you likely know, that space was abruptly shut down a couple weeks ago. I suspect that with the testing around the HERC site, a contaminant was found. I have been told this was due to lead in the paint around the windows and a fear that if that paint flakes, and is inhaled it can impact people's health.

Our teacher has tried to reschedule at the Homer High School's wrestling room, but HHS's basketball court is being redone and the fumes have shut down that wing of the building. Scheduling in that space during the coming school year would likely be challenging as well.

I understand a new REC center is being proposed. Very exciting! This however is several million dollars and a few years away. Meanwhile, we have lost one of the few spaces where karate, zumba, and other fitness classes can exist *today*.

I am curious to learn more about the issue that shut down the green room, and if it can be remediated. Lead paint can usually be painted over by someone who is certified, and there are City employees who are certainly capable of that certification and work. *Can we assess if the HERC Green Room can be remediated, and if remediation is possible, can we invest the relatively small funding needed to accomplish this?*

Classes and other activities in the HERC Green room are what we have now. We don't know when a new REC center will be built, and right now the HERC Green Room is vital for the people who have been regularly using it.

Sincerely,
Adele Person
City of Homer

From: [Brianna Allen](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Cc: [Donna Aderhold](#); [Bradley Parsons](#); [Caroline Venuti](#); [Jason Davis](#); [Storm Hansen](#); [Shelly Erickson](#)
Subject: HERC Green Room Closure
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 6:41:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for your time and civic commitment to our wonderful community of Homer.

This last year I have been attending a strength training class in the Green Room of the HERC building. It's been accessible, affordable preventative healthcare, centered around strength and mobility. I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention the community connection which has been an organic byproduct of this class. It's been wonderful.

I've also learned the Green Room hosts Zumba and karate. It's estimated the HERC building sees *nearly 100 community members daily* between the pickleball community and recent Green Room classes. What a beautiful, important hub for this community.

I've been saddened and concerned to learn of the Green Room's closure. Knowing a community REC center is a priority for our city in the future, I write to ask you to consider what a remediation plan could look like for the "now."

I was happy to pay an annual membership fee for the use of the building through my strength training class. I know of at least two other classmates who also paid the annual membership fee but because of the Green Room's closure, those memberships have rightfully been refunded. I'd hate to see my access, and Homer's recreation income lost.

A community recreation center is a part of Homer's best future forward. How can we maintain the HERC building in the next 5-10 years so that we can keep access to that space and diversify recreation income for the city? Thank you for your help.

Best, Brianna Allen
City of Homer

From: [Jessi Dullinger](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 8:28:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

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I understand a new REC center is being proposed. Very exciting! This however is several million dollars and a few years away. Meanwhile, we have lost one of the few spaces where karate, zumba, and other fitness classes can exist *today*.

I am curious to learn more about the issue that shut down the green room, and if it can be remediated. Lead paint can usually be painted over by someone who is certified, and there are City employees who are certainly capable of that certification and work. *Can we assess if the HERC Green Room can be remediated, and if remediation is possible, can we invest the relatively small funding needed to accomplish this?*

Classes and other activities in the HERC Green room are what we have now. We don't know when a new REC center will be built, and right now the HERC Green Room is vital for the people who have been regularly using it.

Sincerely,
Adele Person
City of Homer

This is copied and pasted from Adele, she was eloquently able to put our thoughts and feelings into a very concise email for you. This is an important matter to lots of community members. I appreciate you reading this and considering a way to move forward.

We gotta do what we can
with where we're at
with what we got

Thank you for your time,
Jessica Dullinger
City of Homer

From: [fenris8605](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: Work out space
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 6:45:16 PM

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I would like to add my name to the list of people concerned about having a workout space for both adults and children.

Sent from my Galaxy