



City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 20-086

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rick Abboud, Acting City Manager
FROM: Jan Keiser, PE, JD, Director of Public Works
DATE: June 16, 2020
SUBJECT: Proposal to Fund the Small Works Road Repair Program

- I. **Issue:** The Public Works Department's Operating Budget covers the normal labor and equipment required to perform preventative maintenance on road beds and surfaces. However, there not is not enough money in the Operating Budget to perform extraordinary repairs or reconstruction. For example, segments of some City roads, which were not built to City standards, have such extensive frost heaves, they are barely passable during break-up. The Operating Budget does not have enough money to reconstruct such segments.

- II. **Background:**
 - A. **The City Council identified road improvements as a priority issue.** At its January 2020 Planning Retreat, the City Council identified road improvements as a priority issue. Further, every traffic and transportation-related study the City has ever commissioned, has identified the need to provide reliable access and convenient connectivity for residential, commercial and emergency traffic. This is impeded when roads are not passable by residents, business owners or emergency vehicles during certain times of the year.

 - B. **We need a way to fund repair/reconstruction work of substandard road beds that goes beyond normal preventative maintenance.** The Road Maintenance Plan catalogs the condition of City roads. It provides a systematic way of (1) assessing the condition of City roads and (2) documenting regular preventative maintenance activities, which are funded by the normal Operating Budget. The Plan also helps identify situations where regular preventative maintenance is not enough; that is, the conditions require more extensive repair or reconstruction. For example, the Road Crew sometimes encounters some City roads, which are almost unpassable during break-up because of frost boils and road heaving.

Many of these cases do not yet merit a full-blow capital improvement project or are awaiting the kind of complete reconstruction that a Local Improvement District is designed to provide. The Road Crew has most of the capacity, in labor and equipment, to perform the work in-house. However, we do not have the budget for materials or occasional, supplemental contractor support. In these cases, we need a “bucket” of money that can pay for select backfill, graded road base, geotextile fabric and occasional 3rd party contractor support. We propose to call this “bucket”, the Small Works Road Repair Program.

- C. Resolution 17-092(A) and Resolution 17-092(A) established a minimum set aside budget from the HART-Roads fund to be used for capital construction and maintenance of roads.** A minimum of \$550,000/year was to be set aside from sales tax revenues to fund the construction of new, and maintenance of existing, roads and trails. Of this, \$500,000/year was to be set aside for roads and \$50,000/year was to be set aside for trails. As of March 31, 2020, \$5,995,992.62 has accumulated in the HART-Roads fund. We propose to use some of this money for a Small Works Road Repair Program, which would be used for spot repairs of existing roads.

I propose a budget of \$175,000 for this program. Labor for this program would be allocated from the normal Public Works operating budget. The “bucket” from the HART Fund would pay for procurement of materials, such as culverts, filter fabric and gravel, as well as occasional supplemental 3rd party contractor support. For example, we have identified the need to dig out road segments totaling approximately 2,625 LF in various City roads. Funds that are not expended from this “bucket” would remain in the HART Fund.

- D. A Small Works Road Repair Program meets the criteria set forth in the HART Policy Manual.** The City Council, on April 24, 2017, passed Resolution 17-038, which adopted the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (“HART”) Manual. The HART Manual identified a set of nine criteria for projects that may be considered for HART funding. The criteria, which would be met by the Small Works Road Repair Program, include:

- Improves life, safety and traffic flow
- Corrects deficiencies of existing systems
- Corrects drainage problems
- Reduces maintenance costs

- III. Action Recommended:** That the City Council pass the proposed ordinance authorizing expenditure of \$175,000 from the HART-Roads Fund for the procurement of materials and supplemental contractor support for the Small Works Road Repair Program.

Road Topping – Dig Outs

- Add gravel to Saltwater
- Emerald Place DigOut – 135 LF
- Garden Park DigOut – 150 LF
- Eagle View Drive west of Diamond Creek to Garden Park approx. 700' Digout
- Replace Cross Culvert at Garden Park
- Crossman Ridge Rd – Skyline to gate area – 1400 LF plus/minus
- Sprucewood 120' by Rogers Loop entrance
- Sprucewood 120' between 2200 and 2240
- Bay Vista and Bay Vista Court

	HART - Roads	Already designated in Operating Budget
Fund Balance thru 3/31/20	\$ 5,995,992.62	
Fund balance remaining - \$5,342,992	\$ 5,342,993	
Fuel Island Replacement - \$95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 85,000.00
Fuel Island Replacement Designated - \$85,000	\$ 85,000	
Small Works Drainage Improvement Program - \$110,000	\$ 110,000	
Small Works Road Repair Program - \$175,000	\$ 175,000	
Main Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project - Pioneer Avenue North - \$98,000	\$ 98,000	
Update 1979 Drainage Management Plan - \$90,000	\$ 90,000	

