



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum 21-065

TO: City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: March 30, 2021
SUBJECT: Proposed Road Financial Plan

I. The Issue:

We promised to develop a Road Financial Plan, which would (1) identify roads that needed work, beyond normal maintenance, to keep them in serviceable condition and (2) show how expenses associated with such work, would be funded. Attached is our proposal for this plan.

II. Background:

The citizens of Homer voted to establish the Homer Accelerated Road & Trails Fund (“HART”), which would be built from a portion of sales tax. The Homer City Council adopted the HART Policy Manual which identifies criteria to use when considering whether projects are eligible for HART Funds. In mid-2020, the City Council adopted a Road Assessment Report, which establishes a systematic means of evaluating and rating the condition of Homer’s Roads. The purpose of the subject memorandum is that connects the dots; that is, introduces a Road Maintenance Financial Plan, which shows how the HART Fund and the Road Assessment Report can be used together to program improvements to Homer’s road system in an affordable and sustainable manner.

The Road Maintenance Financial Plan describes how the condition of the road, as determined using the PASER methodology, developed by the University of Wisconsin to evaluate the condition of paved and gravel roads, with socio-economic factors, such as the impact of economic development and traffic circulation, to develop an Overall Rating for each road. Funding is then assigned to fix “the worst first”; that is, use HART monies to repair roads with the lowest Overall Rating first.

The Road Maintenance Financial Plan shows how all of Homer’s roads can be upgraded to at least a “good” rating, within the next five years. The Plan is designed to be a living document; that is, it will change from year to year as road conditions change or as roads are prioritized differently, as development conditions change. The main point of this proposed Plan is to demonstrate how, if

used systematically, the funds we have been entrusted with, if programmed systematically, can, over time, make substantial improvements to Homer's transportation and drainage infrastructure.

We have reviewed the proposed plan with the Planning Commission, PARCAC and EDC at their meetings earlier this year, where it was enthusiastically received.

III. Recommendation

We recommend the City Council adopt the Road Maintenance Financial Plan strategy. What does this mean? It means the City Council would adopt the criteria-based methodology and commit to the concept of a long-term plan to repair/rebuild Homer's roads. We are not asking for specific appropriations for specific projects at this time. We will do this later, as part of the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan we will be presenting soon.