



City of Homer

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Administration

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Memorandum 22-135

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
DATE: June 29, 2022
SUBJECT: Task Order for Grant Support related to the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- I. **Issue:** The purpose of this Memorandum is to recommend award of Task Order #1 for IIJA technical and grant application support services, predicated on Council adoption of Ordinance 22-39.
- II. **Background:** New programs under the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the infusion of funds into existing state and federal programs provides the City with unprecedented opportunity to compete for grants to support large, priority infrastructure projects. Given the effort, cost and potentially substantial matching funds required for large Federal requests, a strategic approach to the IIJA is in the City's best financial and capacity-building interest.

Through Resolution 22-038, the City issued a Term Contract to HDR Engineering. Work performed under a Term Contract for a particular project is authorized by issuing Task Orders for that project.

To maximize opportunities and impact of IIJA grant funding for City of Homer projects, staff recommend issuing a Task Order for HDR Engineering to work with staff to:

- (1) screen City of Homer projects to estimate how the project will score using quasi-BCA approaches, as well as other IIJA criteria (project readiness, economic vitality, equity, innovative technologies, leveraging matching funds, resiliency and support/ partnerships);
- (2) determine potential weaknesses in terms of project readiness; identify actions to better position projects for funding success;
- (3) develop a strategic framework and 4-year timeline for submitting applications which will include a financial forecast of grant application costs and matching funds required.

Estimated cost of services is no more than \$63,000 in time and effort.

HDR is well suited to help the City secure IIJA funding. They have particular expertise with transportation infrastructure and Federal funding applications, are familiar with Homer projects and can configure their Alaskan and national grant support team to meet the City's needs.

Staff will be fully engaged with HDR through the process and will benefit greatly from their large pool of professionals with technical expertise, State agency contacts and local Alaska knowledge.

Results of the screening process and suggestions for match financing will be shared with City Council for approval of grants to pursue, and may lead to development of a Task Order #2 for full BCA analyses, application development and grant writing assistance as appropriate.

III. Recommendation: City Council award Task Order #1 to HDR Engineering.