



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 24-018, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Support for the Realizing Equitable Accessible Connectivity in Homer (REACH) Project and Endorsing the City's Application to the FY24 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) for REACH Planning and Design Funds. City Manager.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: January 29, 2024
From: Special Projects Coordinator Carroll
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Summary Statement: The purpose of this Memorandum is to request City Council support for the City's FY24 Federal RAISE Planning Grant application via Resolution 24-018.

Background: Last year, upon City Council approval, City staff worked with HDR to submit a REACH application to the FY23 RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Federal discretionary grant program. The REACH application made it to the Secretary of Transportation's desk for final funding consideration, was Highly Rated and earned the designation as a "Project of Merit" but was ultimately not funded. At an application debrief, the US Department of Transportation encouraged the City to consider applying again in the FY24 round.

City Council approved Resolution 24-007 which authorized HDR to work with City staff to strengthen the REACH application (in response to the reviewers' comments) and resubmit the request by the February 28, 2024 application deadline.

The scope of the FY24 REACH project will be similar to FY23: conduct system-wide planning and prioritization, data collection and analysis, feasibility, environmental review and 65% design for selected sidewalk and trail projects in Homer's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Pathways for consideration under REACH include, among others: Herndon from Pioneer Avenue to Main Street, Main Street South from Pioneer Avenue to Ohlson Lane, Ocean Drive and Kachemak Drive, West Hill bicycle lane from Eric Lane to Sterling Highway, Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Accessible Fishing Platform, and Potential 'mobility hubs' for KPB transit van drop off and pick up, park and walk and park and bike hubs, etc. The grant does not require matching funds.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 24-018. A Resolution of support from the governing body will strengthen and be included in the application which is due February 28, 2024.