



# MEMORANDUM

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**Resolution 25-020, Supporting Project #34708 Sterling Highway Erosion Mitigation Study in the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2024-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 2. City Manager/Community Development Director.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** February 27, 2025  
**From:** Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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**Issue:** Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) recently released the draft of Amendment #2 to the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for public review and comment through March 20, 2025. The Amendment includes **Project # 34708, Sterling Highway Erosion Mitigation Study**. This planning study will evaluate needed improvements to protect the Sterling Highway from erosion along the Homer Spit. The short project description in the STIP says, "Improvements may include excavation, coastal erosion protection, paving, signing and striping, and utility relocation." The State has programmed \$800,000 of FY25 PROTECT funds for the study.

**Background:** The City has been advocating for Homer Spit Erosion planning and implementation with our State and Federal partners for several years. Multi-agency implementation of erosion mitigation measures has been a Legislative Priority project in the City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan for several years. In recognition of the increasing vulnerability of the Homer Spit, Homer City Council adopted Resolution 24-114 on October 28, 2024 calling for the ADOT/PF and US Army Corps of Engineers to cooperatively plan and implement long-term erosion mitigation and maintenance plans.

Discussions with the ADOT/PF about cooperating with the City on the Homer Spit erosion mitigation efforts became more urgent after road damage sustained in the November 16, 2024 coastal storm and subsequent local and State declarations of emergency disaster. Part of that discussion included ADOT/PF dedicating Federal PROTECT planning funds towards Homer Spit erosion mitigation to protect the Sterling Highway. These State PROTECT planning funds are formula funds for resiliency planning around the State and are not dependent on winning a federal discretionary grant.

We are pleased to see this project funding come forward from ADOT/PF and are encouraged by our recent discussions about partnering on developing the scope of the planning project and possibly execution of the planning and design activities.

Activities supported by this funding will initiate data collection, analysis, and preliminary design concepts to inform Homer Spit Road protection measures, and which, ideally, will integrate with and

accelerate a future federal feasibility study. These early activities establish the groundwork whether conducted under the reauthorization of the Homer Spit Revetment General Investigation (which typically faces lengthy federal startup timelines) or conducted independently to US Army Corps of Engineers federal standards, ensuring a head start on this critical protection work while the federal process advances.

**Staff recommendation:** Adopt Resolution 25-020 to provide City support and provide comments on STIP Amendment #2 Project #34708.