



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 25-56, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$1,200,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Roads Fund to the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: July 23, 2025
From: Daniel Kort, Public Works Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

I. Issue: The purpose of this Memorandum is to request \$1,200,000 for the construction of the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement Project.

II. Background:

Public Works staff was made aware of the side slope of Highland Drive failing and sloughing in mid-January due to the wet and warm winter. This location is where Highland Drive crosses the drainage headwaters of Bidarki Creek. Bidarki Creek flows through a culvert located at the base of the canyon, crossing with Highland Drive, with side slopes approaching a 1 to 1. The upstream side of the road crossing is approximately 15-feet to the stream bed elevation and the downstream side of the road crossing is approximately 30-feet to the stream elevation. The age of the culvert is estimated to be approximately 30-years and the pipe is well past its expected life.

The Public Works Department has been closely monitoring the conditions on Highland Drive because the erosion and sloughing is continuing to occur and working its way towards the road and has already exposed approximately 5-feet of road bed geotextile fabric and a communication line. As of February 17, 2025, the erosion was within approximately 5-feet of the guardrail along the road edge and is currently within 3-feet. As a safety precaution, the roadway was narrowed to one lane crossing this section of road, and 50% weight limit signs were posted at the intersections of Highland Drive and West Hill Road as well as the intersection of Rogers Loop and Sprucewood Drive.

After soliciting design proposals from three qualified term contractors, the Public Works Department awarded the design of the project to RESPEC Engineering. A final design was

completed by RESPEC on July 18, 2025. The Engineer's estimate for construction was \$1,065,256. However, given the current bidding climate, it would be prudent to include some extra contingency funds for higher than expected bids or unforeseen change orders during construction.

- III. RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the City Council appropriates \$1,200,000 towards the construction of the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement.