



MEMORANDUM

CC-26-136

Ordinance 26-35 An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer Alaska Amending the FY27 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$100,000 rom the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Roads fund towards the South Slope Drive Culvert Replacement.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: June 25, 2026
From: Daniel Kort, Public Works Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

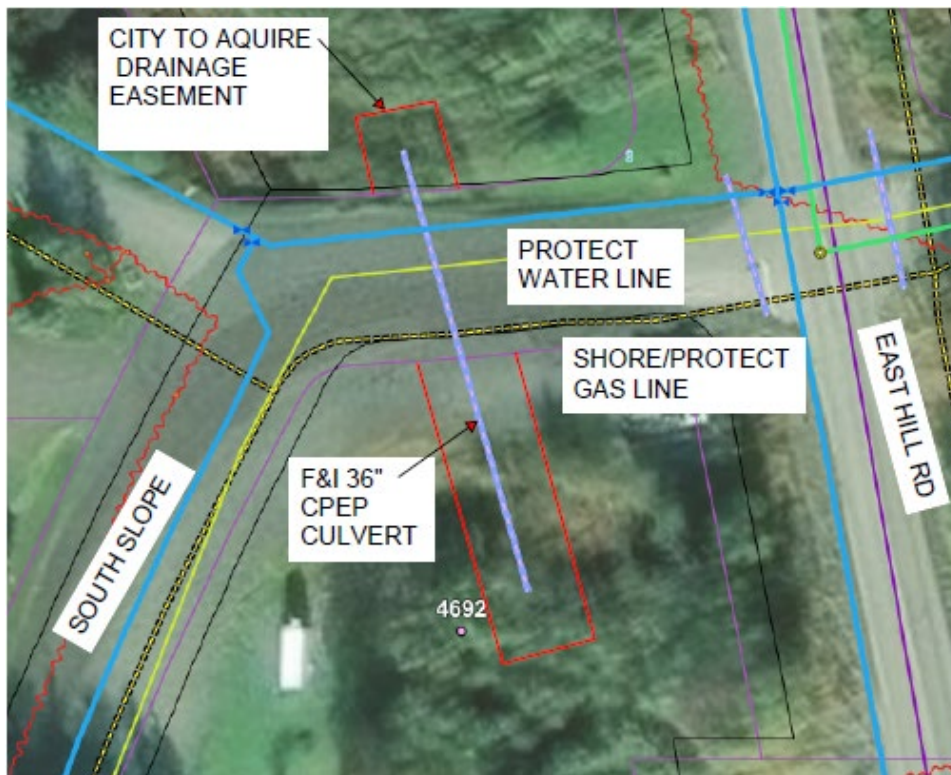
SUMMARY:

This Ordinance is requesting funding to replace a failing and collapsing culvert on the north end of South Slope Drive.

BACKGROUND:

A member of the public in the vicinity called in to let the Public Works Department know that a culvert in their neighborhood was washing out. Upon investigation it was determined that this 36-inch diameter culvert has rusted out along the bottom of the culvert. Water is entering the culvert on the inlet (upstream) side of the culvert, however was discharging out of the ground and into the deep downstream drainage ravine from outside of the culvert. It was determined that the water is exiting the culvert somewhere below ground and is eroding the soils from below the road or near the road edge. The southern 20-ft of the culvert has broken and collapsed into the ravine, and the top of the ravine (or edge of the fill) has been eroding away from the failed culvert.

This culvert is approximately 130-ft long and due to its length is fairly deep on its downhill side. Doing the replacement with City Staff and equipment is possible, however a project of this size places a significant burden on City resources and could take a week or two to perform, taking precious time away from performing routine seasonal maintenance. Therefore, it is more efficient to contract this work out to a company who has the equipment and manpower to expedite this repair. The image below shows the subject culvert.



Public Works Staff have created a simple design drawing and cost estimate for the project. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$90,000. There does not appear to be a drainage easement established for this culvert, so the City will be requesting drainage easements from the neighboring properties as depicted by the red lines in the figure. The cost of survey and easement documentation has been factored into the cost estimate. The Public Works Department is requesting a modest 10% contingency to cover any unexpected costs. Staff is requesting \$100,000 from HART Roads to fund this culvert replacement project.

In addition, Public Works plans to open the portion of South Slope Drive that was constructed as a means for traffic to exit the subdivision during the South Slope Water Main construction project; that project was narrowed down to a trail. A majority of the roadbed is still in place, and the work can be funded through the Public Works operating budget and completed by staff. The plan is to leave the road section open as this section will provide for continuity of travel and emergency response in the event of road failure or major construction on East Hill Road. If a major event causes a closure of East Hill Road, residents and emergency responders above South Slope would be required to travel up and over West Skyline to West Hill Road to access this area.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt an ordinance to appropriate HART funds for the South Slope Drive Culvert Replacement Project.