

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Manager/
4 Port and Harbor Director

5 **RESOLUTION 23-040**
6

7 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
8 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HOMER PORT FREIGHT
9 RESILIENCY & EFFICIENCY – IMPROVING GREATER HOMER-AREA
10 TRANSPORTATION (FREIGHT) PROJECT, ENDORSING THE CITY’S
11 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
12 TRANSPORTATION MARITIME ADMINISTRATION’S FY2023 PORT
13 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND COMMITTING
14 LOCAL MATCH FUNDS.

15
16 WHEREAS, The City of Homer strives to provide and improve city-operated facilities and
17 services to meet the needs of the community; and

18
19 WHEREAS, The City of Homer owns and maintains the Homer Port & Harbor, a regional
20 maritime hub facility that provides broad community benefits, serving:

- 21 • barges and landing craft that deliver cargo and essential supplies to over 28 non-
22 road connected communities and villages located in Southcentral, SW and Western
23 Alaska,
24 • tugs and pilot boats that assist freight delivery to the Port of Alaska and industries
25 located in Southcentral, SW, and Western Alaska, and
26 • commercial fishing vessels working nearly every fishery in the State of Alaska; and
27

28 WHEREAS, A comprehensive Homer Port & Harbor Condition Assessment completed in
29 2022 by R&M Consultants identifies the need to replace floating docks, trestles, and other items
30 in poor or worse condition in Float Systems 1, 2, 4, and 5 due to decades of deferred
31 maintenance by the State under its prior ownership and the age of the facility for a rough order
32 of magnitude estimated cost of \$72.6M; and

33
34 WHEREAS, The assessment report also noted that electrical, fire suppression and water
35 supply to these float systems are not up to code; and

36
37 WHEREAS, The assessment further concluded that the issues that can no longer be
38 adequately or economically addressed through continued maintenance and major repairs;
39 and
40

41 WHEREAS, Demand for moorage and regional freight movement have increased over
42 time, driving the need to safeguard and maximize moorage capacity and efficiencies in
43 Homer’s Port & Harbor to meet this demand; and,
44

45 WHEREAS, the City of Homer has prioritized replacing Float Systems 4 and 1 and
46 connecting float A, which range in age from 37 to 60 years old, are in serious to critical
47 condition, were transferred to City ownership in 1999 through a Transfer of Responsibility
48 Agreement from the State of Alaska, and would cost \$59,289,546 to replace; and
49

50 WHEREAS, The Homer Port *Freight Resiliency & Efficiency – Improving Greater Homer-*
51 *area Transportation* (FREIGHT) project designs, permits and replaces these two float systems
52 to preserve the foundational integrity and maximum, efficient functioning of the Homer Port
53 facility to serve regional maritime transportation needs; and
54

55 WHEREAS, the Homer Port FREIGHT project will furnish float systems that are in
56 compliance with modern safety, fire and electrical codes and ADA standards to address safety
57 and accessibility issues; and
58

59 WHEREAS, The project has strong local and regional support evidenced by being
60 selected as Legislative Priority project in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan and by letters of
61 support; and
62

63 WHEREAS, The project is aligned with Alaska’s Statewide Long-Range Transportation
64 Plan goal of sustainability of Alaska’s public harbor system; and
65

66 WHEREAS, The project is identified as an objective in the Kenai Peninsula Borough
67 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: to advance the stability and resilience of
68 Homer’s marine transportation infrastructure so that it continues its critical role in facilitating
69 regional economic activity and community resilience; and
70

71 WHEREAS, The do-nothing option will require load restrictions in the short-term and in
72 the mid-term that the float systems be condemned and decommissioned to mitigate the risk
73 of sudden and catastrophic float failure; and
74

75 WHEREAS, Losing these float systems will displace a significant number of vessels,
76 increase rafting of vessels on the remaining floats, increase safety hazards for vessel owners
77 and their crews, create vessel delays, and disrupt reliable, affordable means to move freight,
78 supplies and people; and
79

80 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Transportation Maritime Administration
81 is making Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant funds available to support
82 investments in the planning, design and construction that improves port resilience, efficiencies
83 in freight movement, equity and workforce development; and

84
85 WHEREAS, the Homer Port FREIGHT project aligns with PIDP's intent and merit criteria;
86 and

87
88 WHEREAS, PIDP provides a key funding opportunity to complete the rehabilitation of
89 this critical port infrastructure for the benefit of the communities, industry and other regional
90 stakeholders in southcentral and Western Alaska, which would otherwise be out of reach for
91 us; and

92
93 Whereas, In light of the regional importance of the project, the City of Homer has
94 developed a financial plan to provide significant match funds through bond/loans, and
95 meeting loan payments utilizing current and new revenues in the Port & Harbor Enterprise
96 Reserve Account.

97
98 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, supports
99 the Homer Port FREIGHT project and the City's application to the USDOT FY2023 PIDP Grant
100 Program; and

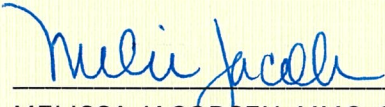
101
102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska commits to providing
103 local match funds of twenty and one-half (20.5) percent of the project cost, the total of which
104 is anticipated at \$59,289,546.

105
106 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 24th day of April, 2023.

107
108 CITY OF HOMER

109
110 
111 _____
112 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

113
114 ATTEST:

115
116 
117 _____
118 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

119
120 Fiscal Note: N/A

