



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Road Infrastructure Package:

As discussed during the Manager's comments at the April 27, 2021 budget hearing, staff will be preparing a road infrastructure package for discussion during the June 22 Assembly Special Meeting. The intent of the special meeting is to discuss the size and scope of the road package that will be drafted for Assembly consideration in July.

We anticipate introduction of the package for public hearing on July 20 and public hearing on August 3. This leaves the August 17 meeting for a continuance if needed. In the meantime, staff will develop a roads package to share with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Planning Commission prior to the June 22 meeting.

Draft ballot question(s) would address 1) authorization for what roads to build, and 2) how to fund the package. Staff will focus on developing the package for authorization and the Attorney and Finance Director will look at funding options (e.g. bond or sales tax) that will be presented on June 22.

Congressionally Designated Appropriations

Federal legislators are revisiting the former system known as earmarks where they are able to direct Federal dollars to projects in their home districts. The new terminology being used is Congressionally designated appropriations. Congressman Don Young announced FY2022 Alaska member-directed funding requests earlier this week as part of the Community Project Funding program submitted to the House committee on appropriations. Congressman Young submitted a list of 13 requests that fall under the member designated projects for Transportation and Infrastructure and the Seldon Road Extension, Phase 2, was included in that list at \$5,623,800 from the Mat-Su Borough. Funding submissions for FY2022 appropriations are requests and do not guarantee funding to applicants. Final funding awards will be determined through the committee markup process and by a final vote on the House Floor. See the announcement at <https://donyoung.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=401965>.

Port MacKenzie Cell 1 Repairs:

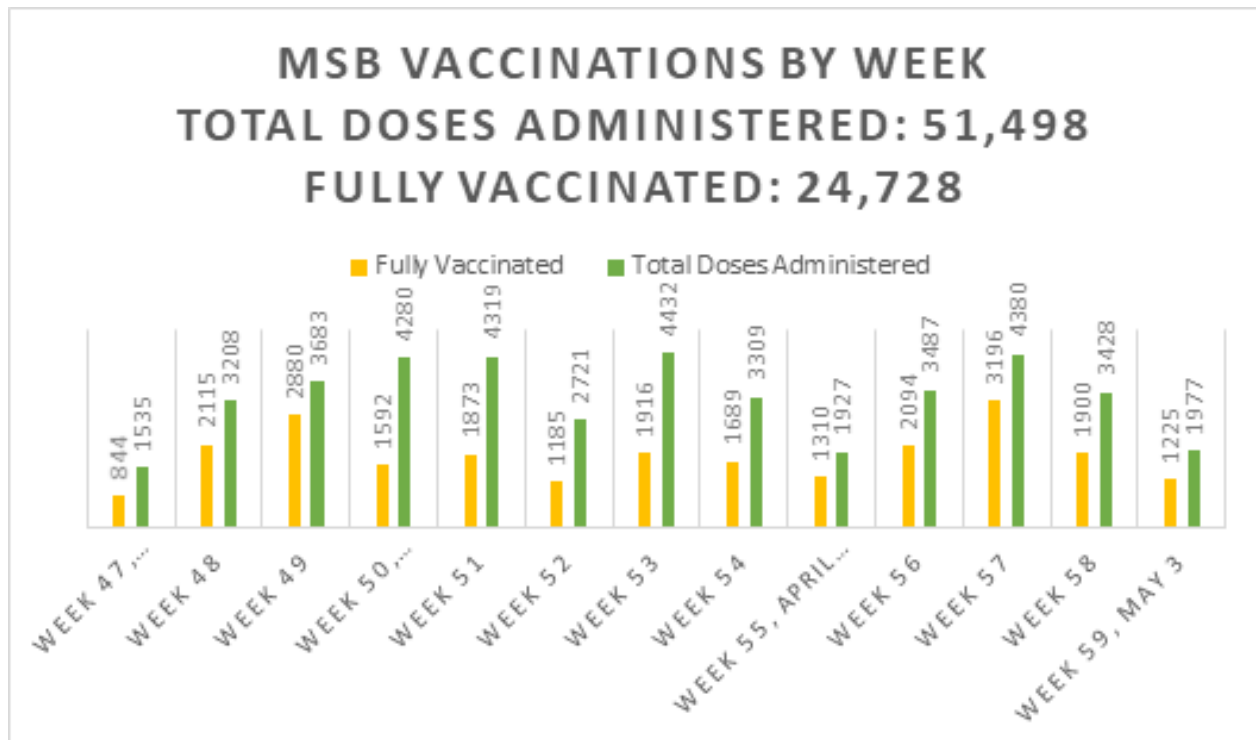
The sheet pile repairs completed last fall at Port MacKenzie successfully held the piles in place over the winter. This spring we will be adding an additional temporary repair of approximately the same size to ensure the integrity of the dock until a planned Cell 1 pile replacement in 2022. The repair will include welding three additional retaining bands onto the face of the barge dock.

As you may recall in our February 2021 Special Meeting on the Port, the Public Works Director explained that the barge dock bulkhead was reaching the end of its expected useful life and will need to be replaced over time. The bulkhead consists of 15 cells. Sheet pile in Cells 11 and 12 have already been replaced. The interlocks in Cell 1, the southernmost cell on the barge dock, have been showing signs of corrosion and are beginning to separate in places making Cell 1 the next priority. The FY22 proposed and past budgets have included small increments of capital funding for anticipated maintenance and should be sufficient to cover the cost of Cell 1 sheet pile replacement in 2022.

Vaccination Weekly Update:

Of those eligible for vaccination (16+) 34.6% have their first dose, 30.2% are fully vaccinated. Of those 65+, 59.7% have their first dose and 56.2% are fully vaccinated. Of residents of any age, 25.7% have their first dose, and 22.5% are fully vaccinated.

The list of boroughs and census areas by vaccination rate pulls from the 16+, first dose numbers. We are second to last, passing only the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Arctic Winter Games

[MSB Press Release- Mat-Su to Host Arctic Winter Games](#)

[ADN Article - Beth Brag](#)

[CBC Article](#)

[Frontiersman Article – Tim Rockey](#)

[Associated Press](#)

State

[State park campgrounds and cabins are ready for business](#)

Assembly

[Assembly passes property for SCTP shooting range](#)

Fisheries

[Some Alaskan salmon rejected in Seattle restaurant due to smaller size](#)

[Group file third intervention defending pause on Federal Oil, Gas Leasing](#)

[Store ice fishing gear: It's time for open water fishing](#)

[Shrinking Salmon- Whole foods redoes its guidelines](#)

[Spring hooligan on the way](#)

COVID-19

[Valley Athletes begin weekly antigen testing](#)

[Alaska's COVID-19 vaccine pace slowed- cases rise in least-vaccinated regions](#)

Agriculture

[Alaskan Farmers get creative with growing food sustainably](#)

[Tractor parade kicks off growing season in for local farmers](#)

Resource Development

[Novagold Issues 2020 Annual Report and Sustainability](#)

Wildfire prevention

[Dry, pre-greenup conditions lead to more grass fires in Southcentral Alaska](#)
[Spruce Beetles threaten trees and homes in Alaska](#)

Emergency Response

[Presumed sewer gas leak sends 7 people at Wasilla shopping area to hospital](#)

[Clock tower free from hazardous leak and back in operation](#)

Port MacKenzie

[Cruz Construction move heavy equipment by barge at Port – Video by Toby Riddell](#)