



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

FireWise Community Outreach on May 8, 2021: The event was attended by approximately 400 people, which allowed for great interaction and education with the public. People enjoyed the presentations and seemed appreciative that the departments were holding the learning events. Several FireWise survey contacts were made for follow up visits to occur. This event also doubled as a great recruitment opportunity.

- Event was supported by the following agencies:
 - Four Mat-Su CERT Teams
 - Alaska Red Cross
 - MEA Dangerous Tree Program
 - State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Department of Forestry
 - Enstar
 - Moore's Hardware
 - Ready Set Go, International Association of Fire Chiefs Wildland Fire Programs
 - Horseshoe Lake FireWise Community
 - West Lakes Fire Auxiliary
 - Mat-Su Borough Emergency Medical Services
 - Staff presented at two community meetings held for the Lynx Lake fuels reduction project where FireWise surveys, emergency communications and evacuation alerting were discussed
- Staff have contacted nine interested homeowners and are working on scheduling six others for survey visits; three FireWise surveys have been completed
- Rough draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) update is in place
 - Our CWPP planner will be working on CWPP updates
 - Community Council visits will be scheduled to educate and coordinate CWPPs
- Spruce Bark Beetle grant is being reviewed and updated, currently in review by Department of Forestry

For more information, see the MSB FireWise website: <https://firewise.matsugov.us/>

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Transportation Infrastructure Package: Here is a short summary of the timeline for the 2021 Transportation System Bond Package. A copy of the most recent draft spreadsheet is attached.

The timeline for public input, public hearing schedules, and ballot placement:

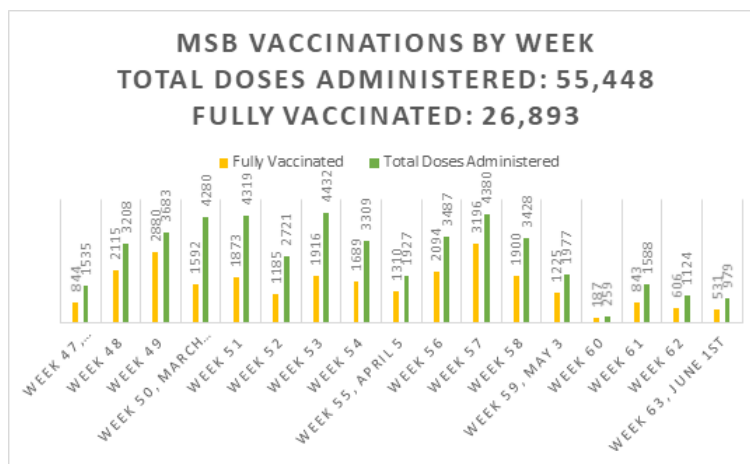
- Transportation Advisory Board week of June 11, 2021
- Large RSA Advisory Board June 17, 2021
- Planning Commission Intro June 7, 2021 and Public Hearing June 21, 2021
- Assembly Special Meeting June 22, 2021 to review/discuss package
- Assembly Intro July 20, 2021 and Public Hearing August 3, 2021
- Outreach to Public Outreach – community councils, home builders, business owners, and general public June 22, 2021 or sooner if the draft package is ready through August 3, 2021
- Deadline for the Fall ballot is August 27, 2021

Vaccination Weekly Update: The State vaccination page has updated; it seems low, but it could be that people chose to enjoy their long weekend rather than spend it getting vaccinated. This will be the last week vaccinations are reported in the Weekly Post as there are not significant changes in the numbers from week to week and this information is already available publicly via the State website.

The State is reporting, for residents 12+: 52% have 1+ dose, 46% are fully vaccinated. For 65+: 73% have 1+ dose and 69% are fully vaccinated.

For Mat-Su Borough, residents 12+: 36% have 1+ dose, 31% are fully vaccinated. For 65+: 59% have 1+ dose and 56% are fully vaccinated.

On the list of boroughs/census areas by 1+ dose in residents 12+, we are still above Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (30%) and North Slope Borough (34%).



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Schools

- [Superintendent presents final COVID update from schools](#)

Community

- [Palmer Community Foundation awards \\$20,850 in grants](#)
- [Hundreds Gather At Veterans Wall Of Honor For Memorial Day \(see photos on MSB Facebook\)](#)

Emergency Response

- [Earthquake shakes Southcentral Alaska](#)
- [Fire safely contained off Seward Meridian](#)

Resource Development

- [Minerals are one bright spot in the economy](#)
- [Alaska DEC upholds contested water quality certificate for Donlin Gold Mine](#)

Technology

- [GCI upgrading wireless speeds in Mat-Su and beyond](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Projects	Description	Assembly District	Cost Estimate (need to update)	Design	Length (miles)	Functional Classification
Old Glenn Pathway Phase 2	Project would extend the pathway from Sodak Circle to Knik River	1	\$ 1,800,000	65% (ROW acquisition also underway)	1.2	Minor Arterial
Trunk Road Connector/Katherine Drive	Project would complete design and construct a collector road from Stringfield Road to Trunk Road and Trunk to Manhattan Way providing access to a new school site and the Midtown Estates Subdivision.	1	\$ 2,200,000	75%	0.4	Minor Collector
Smith Road Extension Upgrade and Paved Pathway	This project will upgrade the MSB owned segment of Smith Road providing improved and safer residential and recreational trailhead access.	1	\$ 1,800,000		0.9	Minor Collector
Hemmer Road Extension South	This project will improve safety and access to the Valley Pathways School and a large residential subdivision by extending Hemmer Road south of the Palmer Wasilla Highway.	2	\$ 4,500,000		1.0	Major Collector
Irwin Road Upgrade & Pathway	This project will upgrade this road to collector standards and provide pedestrian/bike path for several large subdivisions.	2	\$ 1,500,000		0.4	Minor Collector
Nelson Road Extension North	This project would provide major collector road access from the Nelson Road/Withers Road intersection to Fairview Loop and include an at- grade rail crossing.	3	\$ 5,000,000		0.4	Major Collector
Point MacKenzie Road Reconstruction MP 0-7	This project would add shoulders, reconstruct the embankment and pave Pt. MacKenzie Road from KGB Road to Ayrshire Road providing improved/safer access to Port MacKenzie, the Goose Creek Correctional Center and the Point MacKenzie Agricultural District.	5	\$ 10,000,000	Geotech Complete	7.0	Major Arterial
Burma Road Reconstruction	Burma Road would be reconstructed to a collector level road from Ayrshire Road to Purinton Parkway providing all development in the Point MacKenzie area an improved/safer secondary access route.	5	\$ 6,000,000	15%	4.5	Major Collector
Aspen Ridge Rd. Extension East	Extend Aspen Ridge Road to Palmer Fishhook Road providing another outlet for traffic currently adding to the traffic congestion on Engstrom Road.	6	\$ 5,500,000		1.3	Minor Collector
Charlie Drive-Caribou Street Upgrade	Project would widen and upgrade this heavily used corridor to a borough collector level from Bogard Road to Wasilla Fishhook.	6	\$ 4,500,000		2.3	Minor Collector
Edgerton Road-Mtn. Trails Drive Upgrade & Pathway	Project would upgrade Ederton Road from Palmer Fishhook Road to Mountain Trails Drive with pathway extending to GPRA Parking Lot.	6	\$ 2,800,000	35%	Rd. 1.0 Path 2.0	Minor Collector

Projects	Description	Assembly District	Cost Estimate (need to update)	Design	Length (miles)	Functional Classification
Engstrom Road Extension to Trunk Road	Project would provide connection from Engstrom to Trunk Road connecting to a segment of Homestead Road north of the Trunk-Bogard roundabout reducing heavy traffic on Engstrom Road.	6	\$ 2,500,000		0.9	Minor Collector
Lucille Street and Pathway Upgrade	Project would upgrade Lucille Street and pathway from Spruce Street to Seldon Road and add turn lane for Tanaina Elem. School	6	\$ 3,500,000	65%	1.0	
MSSD Shaw Elementary	Add left-turn lane on the southbound lane of Wasilla Fishhook for safer access to Shaw Elementary.	6	\$ 500,000		0.1	Minor Arterial
Tex-Al Drive Upgrade and Extension and Pathway	Connect east & west segments of Tex-Al, upgrade the rest of the corridor and provide a pedestrian pathway.	6	\$ 5,500,000	25%	3.0	Minor Collector
Seldon Rd. Upgrade Ph. 1 - Srock Rd. to Lucille Street	Project would design, purchase ROW and relocate utilities to upgrade Seldon Road between Schrock Road and Lucille Street to Arterial level road with pathway. This segment of road carries one of the borough's highest average daily traffic volumes (5,000+ ADT).	6	\$ 9,500,000		1.5	Major Collector
Cheri Lake Drive/Karen Avenue/King Arthur Drive	Corridor upgrade/improvements - City of Houston nomination.	7	\$ 7,000,000	35%	3.1	Minor Collector
Oilwell Road Upgrade MP 0-6	Petersville Road to Kroto Creek Bridge -Upgrade to Borough Collector level standards	7	\$ 6,500,000	100%	6.0	Major Collector
Yoder Road Upgrade MP 0-4	Pave Yoder Road from Talkeetna Spur to Montana Creek Bridge	7	\$ 3,500,000		4.0	Minor Collector
Museum Drive Extension West	This project extends Museum Drive from Museum Place (Parks Hwy. MP 47.5) to Silvan Road creating access for a large commercial district and numerous subdivisions.	7	\$ 4,500,000	100%	1.5	Minor Collector
Gunflint Trail (Road)	Project would upgrade Gunflint from King Arthur Road to Powder Drive.	7	\$ 650,000	95%	1.3	Minor Collector
Caswell Lakes Rd./Bendapole Rd./Passthebaite Ave. Paving	Pave from Caswell Lakes Road down Benapole Road to Hidden Hills Road.	7	\$ 810,000		3.5	Major Collector
Hidden Hills & Passthebaite Ave. Reconstruction	Reconstruct Hidden Hills Road from the Parks Highway to Caswell Loop and Passthebaite Avenue to Bendapole.	7	\$ 3,600,000		3.6	Major Collector
Engstrom Road Extension North	Aspen Ridge Road to Tex-Al. This project would provide a collector road for access for residents on the north end of Engstrom who currently use residential subdivision roads as well as a more complete secondary road network for accessing arterials such as Palmer-Fishhook, Wasilla-Fishhook, and Bogard Roads.	1,3	\$ 2,500,000	35%	1.0	Minor Collector
Green Forest Drive Upgrade	This project will upgrade Green Forest Drive to Borough collector level standards to more adequately carry the heavy traffic load.	1,3	\$ 1,200,000		1.2	Minor Collector
Boyd Road to Norman Avenue	Project would provide a collector level road connection from Palmer-Fishhook Road to Norman Avenue via a Hermann Avenue extension and upgrade providing secondary access for many subdivisions.	1,6	\$ 3,000,000		2.2	Minor Collector

Projects	Description	Assembly District	Cost Estimate (need to update)	Design	Length (miles)	Functional Classification
Fern Street Upgrade & Pathway	This project would upgrade Fern Street to borough collector level road standards and include a paved pathway between KGB Road and Fairview Loop. City of Wasilla nomination.	3,4	\$ 4,000,000		1.6	Minor Collector
Seward Meridian Parkway-Tambert Traffic Signal	Project would provide safe crossing of Seward Meridian Parkway for students and pedestrians living to the east.	3,6	\$ 1,500,000		N/A	Arterial
Foothills Blvd./Paddy Place/Betina Way Upgrade	This project would upgrade the road corridor to collector standards from KGB Road to Museum Drive.	4,5	\$ 1,700,000		3.0	Minor Collector
Johnson Road Upgrade	This project would upgrade Johnson Road between Hollywood Road and the Parks Highway	5,7	\$ 2,500,000		2.3	Minor Collector
Right-of-way Acquisition	Project will purchase ROW for road extensions or roads that need upgraded to collector level standards.	1-7	\$ 2,500,000			Collectors & Arterials
Paving Package	Repave \$1M worth of roads in each Assembly district.	1-7	\$ 7,000,000			Collectors & Arterials
MSB School District 2018 Pedestrian Projects	Safe Routes to Schools Implementation: -Big Lake Elementary, Machetanz Elementary, Larson Elementary, Dena'ina Elementary and Redington Highschool, Colony Middle School, and Talkeetna Elementary.	1,3,5,6,7	\$ 2,000,000		Varies	
Collector Road Pavement Replacement COP & COW	Repave roads in partnership with COP & COW	1,2,3,4	\$ 5,000,000			Collectors
STAND ALONE PATHWAY PROJECTS (within State Hwy. ROWs)						
Sutton to Palmer Pathway along Glenn Hwy.	This project would provide a pathway connection between Eska Street in Sutton to Auklet Avenue in Palmer	1	\$ 5,200,000		13.0	Interstate
Inner-Outer Springer Loop Pathway	Cope Industrial Way to the Glenn Highway	2	\$ 480,000		1.2	Major & Minor Collector
Main Street-Bogard Road Pathway	Adjacent to Main Street & Bogard Rd. to S.M.P	4	\$ 1,320,000		3.3	Minor Arterial
Palmer Fishhook Separated Pathway	Glenn Hwy. to Little Susitna River Bridge	1,6	\$ 3,400,000		8.5	Minor Arterial
Wasilla Fishhook Separated Pathway	Palmer Fishhook Road to Seldon Road	6	\$ 3,600,000		9.0	Minor Arterial
Pittman Road Pathway	Seldon Road to Parks Highway	7	\$ 920,000		2.3	Major Collector
Parks Hwy. Pathway	Talkeetna Spur to Willow Fishhook Rd.	7	\$ 11,000,000		27.5	Interstate
Knik Goose Bay Rd. Connectivity NW	From KGB along Vine Road to Parks Highway	4,5,7	\$ 2,000,000	10%	3.4	Major Arterial
Church Road Pathway	Seldon Road to Spruce Avenue	4,6,7	\$ 400,000		1.0	Major Collector
STAND ALONE PATHWAY PROJECTS (w/in MSB ROW)						
Nelson Road Pathway Phase 2	Machetanz Elementary School to Withers Rd.	3	\$ 350,000	100%	1.0	Major Collector
TRANSIT PROJECTS - that help address the traffic congestion issue in and around Wasilla						
Big Lake Rd. & Parks Hwy. Park and Ride Facility	Commuter vehicle parking and bus drop-off/pick-up facility to reduce traffic congestion	(5) & 7	\$ 3,500,000			Collector-Interstate Hwy.
Share-A-Ride Program Support	Provide funding for 6 Share-A-Ride Vans to reduce traffic congestion. The majority use of this program is from Mat-Su residents that commute to Anchorage or the military bases.	1-6	\$ 525,000			Interstate Hwy.

Projects	Description	Assembly District	Cost Estimate (need to update)	Design	Length (miles)	Functional Classification
Multi-modal Wasilla Depot	This project would provide for land acquisition and site preparation for a new transit facility which would act as a commuter, bus & passenger rail hub for the core area of the borough reducing traffic congestion. <i>(The acquired property and site improvements will be transferred to the City of Wasilla.)</i>	1-7	\$ 1,500,000	10%		Interstate Hwy.
Pittman Rd. & Parks Hwy. Park and Ride Facility	Commuter vehicle parking and bus drop-off/pick-up facility to reduce traffic congestion	7	\$ 3,500,000			Collector-Interstate Hwy.