



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 2024  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Bogard-Seldon Road Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP)**: The Borough is working with HDR to develop a CAMP for the Bogard/Seldon Road corridor. Access management plans reduce potential conflict points by limiting the number of entry/exit points along an arterial road and rerouting traffic to controlled intersections. When there are fewer conflict points, safety increases, and travel delays decrease, even when higher traffic volumes occur.

HDR, the Borough's engineering contractor, is currently analyzing access management options which may include:

- Adding or redesigning medians
- Requiring minimum spacing of intersections, median openings, and driveways
- Consolidating, rerouting, or improving driveways or side roads
- Adding frontage or backage roads

The CAMP will be used to evaluate subdivision proposals and guide future road projects.

Next steps:

- Draft CAMP completed – Sept. 2024
- Public engagement – Oct. 2024
- Transportation Advisory Board and Planning Commission input – Nov. 2024 - Jan. 2025
- Assembly consideration – Dec. 2024 – Feb. 2025

Other items mentioned in the North Lakes Community Council resolution that positively impact the Board-Seldon corridor are as follows: 1) ~\$30 million in recent community transportation funding awards for both DOT and Borough projects in this corridor; 2) TIP 21 projects for completing Tex-Al and upgrading it to a major collector and completing an Engstrom-Trunk connector; 3) inclusion of a project for Lakeview Dr. as part of the TIP 24 package; and 4) the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) formation to address urban area transportation.

**Online Land Sales**: Community Development is using the software system Public Surplus to conduct our online land sales. Public Surplus is a no-frill site that will work for both our Borough Land Sales and Foreclosure Auctions. The City of Wrangell, Alaska, uses this system for its online

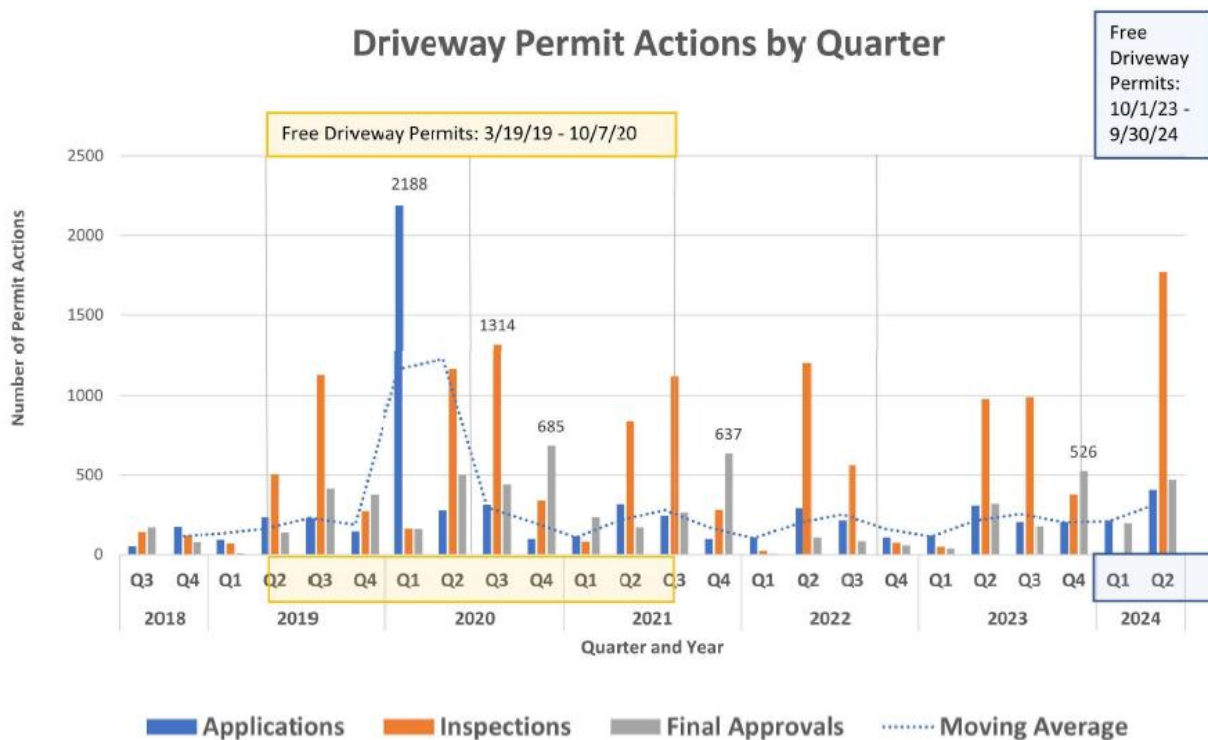
land sales. We are working with the company to determine the Terms of Agreement, including selecting the service level options between a 5-8% buyer's premium. This is a collaborative effort with Purchasing and Finance as we move forward, and we will continue to update the Administration and the Assembly on information, as we have it, about future land sales, including timelines and where to view the parcels for sale.

**Borough Pools:** The goal with Borough Pools this fall and winter is to offer consistent 6-day-a-week Borough services at both the Wasilla and Palmer pools with a plan to go to 7-day-a-week services for the 2025-2026 school year. We will invest in recruitment to hire additional on-call employees to fill vacant positions, which is currently an obstacle to expanded services. The focus of expanded services will include swim lesson offerings, open swim, and pool rental times for parties and events.

We will evaluate the success of a 6-day service week at the end of next winter and adjust as needed to continue to maximize the pools and services we provide at our facilities. If recruitment for operations-critical pool staff is successful for the 2024-2025 year, we will adjust the pool schedule at one or both pools to open seven days a week.

Additionally, we will retain the YMCA contract at the Wasilla pool for the upcoming year. The YMCA offers swim lessons on Sundays at the Wasilla Pool for 4 hours. Any Mat-Su resident can register for these services, and you do not need to be a member of the YMCA to participate. For information on YMCA Swim Lessons, visit <https://ymcaalaska.org/programs/aquatics/swim-lessons/>.

**Quarterly Driveway Permit Report:**



**2025 Federal and State Legislative Priorities:** Staff will draft State and Federal Legislative Priorities resolutions for consideration at the October 15 regular Assembly meeting and introduce them at the October 1 meeting. If Assembly members are interested in drafting priorities, please contact the Manager or Attorney. We intend to have all items drafted by the September 18 legislation cutoff date.

**Fish & Wildlife Commission Quarterly Report:**

During the second quarter of 2024, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) met three times as follows:

- April 11: Regular meeting
- May 9: Regular Meeting
- June 6: Special Meeting: *ADF&G Game Season Summary*

This quarter, the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) drafted, approved, and submitted a list of game-related questions to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G). The submission was in preparation of the FWC's annual Game Season Summary meeting, which is an opportunity for ADF&G biologists and FWC members to participate in discussion on game-related issues through the Mat-Su Borough. This meeting was held on June 6, 2024. The FWC continues conversations with ADF&G to determine ways to offer support in restoring and protecting valuable habitat, retaining staff support, and ultimately maintaining healthy wildlife populations.

In April, the FWC hosted an ADF&G biologist to discuss concerns with Moose Safety Lighting. The discussion was specific to the Seldon Corridor but expanded to a general discussion on Moose Vehicle Collisions. ADF&G has a need for updated datasets and project prioritization to effectively continue this conversation. The FWC did not submit proposals in anticipation of the 2025 Board of Game meetings, which will be held in Wasilla in January 2025. The full list of proposals will be released in September, and the FWC will review and offer comments as appropriate. The FWC has also participated in informational discussions and continues to follow updates on the Susitna Watana Hydro Project and other proposed clean energy solutions, which have the potential for fish and wildlife habitat impacts.

**Port MacKenzie Federal Grant Applications:** In the past several weeks, the Borough has submitted or participated in the submission of four federal grant applications related to Port MacKenzie. The Alaska Railroad Corporation submitted an application for the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) project under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program on May 28, 2024. The CRISI submission requests ~\$279 million to complete the PMRE and is this project's first federal grant application. Previous funding totaling \$184 million was provided through State Legislative grants. The Borough submitted the following three federal grant applications: 1) US Marine Highway Program grant for a telehandler forklift totaling ~\$1 million. This is the same grant the Port successfully won last year for a mobile harbor crane; 2) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for ~\$13 million, including a barge ramp, a 250-ton crawler crane, a loaded container handler, a telehandler forklift, a skid steer, a fuel storage tank, and a shop building; and 3) FEMA port security grant for \$600,000.

## **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

### **Fisheries**

- [Multiple mid-July Mat-Su Fishery changes](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Waterbody setback recommendations are nearly complete](#)  
KTNA
- [Fishing Report: Exploring opportunities in the Mat-Su \(video\)](#)  
Alaska News Source
- [Copper River Personal Use Dipnet salmon fishing opens July 15-21](#)  
Deltawindonline.com
- [Studies show there are likely more sushi worms in Alaska Salmon and other fish than there used to be](#)  
ADN

### **Library Books**

- [Mat-Su book review committee concludes some books returned to shelves](#)  
Alaska Public Media
- [First review set for new borough library panel tasked with examining challenged books](#)  
Mat-Su Sentinel

### **Law**

- [Former Houston City Treasurer sentenced to more than 2 years](#)  
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### **Community**

- [Funding approved for Talkeetna crosswalk](#)  
KTNA
- [Alaskans react to attempted assassination of former President Trump](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Mat-Su firearms training program open for contractor bids](#)  
Mat-Su Sentinel

### **Economy**

- [Mortgage payments surge more than 50 percent in Alaska](#)  
Newsweek.com
- [Palmer-Wasilla Carrs Safeway among 18 Alaska stores planned for divestiture in proposed merger](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Alaska Inflation finally moving out of the fast lane](#)  
Cordova Times