



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Bogard/Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP) Update: Following extensive public outreach, the Borough Assembly held a public hearing on the Bogard/Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP) on June 17, 2025. During that meeting, the Assembly made several amendments to the draft plan. A revised version of the plan, incorporating all changes adopted by the Assembly, is now available for public review at: <https://bogardseldonaccess.matsugov.us>. The Assembly is scheduled to consider adoption of the updated plan at its August 5, 2025, regular meeting.

2025 Spring Tax Foreclosure Sale (TS46) Results: TS46 was successfully concluded with the competitive online sale ending on June 4, 2025, with \$1,067,100 in tax assessed value returned to the tax rolls by either the repurchase of property by the former record owners or by the sale of property via online auction. All the sale properties sold with excess funds available for the former record owners to claim. In fact, this year's sale has the highest amount of excess funds available to claim since the Borough started an annual tax foreclosure sale in 1997. The next sale has a target date of September 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 (April, May, June) Port MacKenzie Report

Vessel Traffic:

- Cruz Construction brought two barges to Port MacKenzie in May. Both barges were loaded with a total of 1,052 tons of construction materials and equipment to support projects in Kongiganak and Chevak, AK.

Maintenance:

- No major maintenance activities took place during this quarter.
- Site locations for the upcoming Arctic Edge Exercises were cleared and prepped.

Port Activity:

- Northern Gravel & Trucking LLC continues to utilize the port to store and distribute road salt throughout the State.
- Alaska Directional continued to utilize the port to stage telecom supplies and equipment for their Beluga Point project.
- Cruz Construction began staging equipment and supplies in preparation for Spring 2026 barge loadout.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

- Multiple private, governmental, and international agencies have toured the port to discuss potential use and business opportunities.
- The Port has hosted multiple site visits with various military representatives to discuss logistics for the upcoming Arctic Edge Exercises being conducted at Port MacKenzie in late July to mid August.

Grants

- Axiom Environmental was contracted to prepare the US DOT BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant application and a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request to fund construction of the barge haul-out ramp. These applications have been submitted, and we are waiting for the award notifications to be released.
- We will reapply for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant this year to design, engineer, and permit Cell 1 barge dock modernization.
- MSB staff had collaborated with the Alaska Railroad to support its efforts to reapply for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program. Ultimately a decision was made by the railroad to not apply. The MSB will apply for the CRISI program on its own behalf.

Port Commission

- The Port Commission held a regular meeting on April 21, 2025. A special work session was planned for June 26. That meeting did not occur due to a lack of quorum. The next regular meeting is July 21, 2025.

Barge Haul Out Ramp

- The design has reached 95%, and the permit applications have been submitted. A grant application was submitted through the BUILD Program with the US Department of Transportation.

Planning

- The port continues to work on the updated master plan and will provide updates as time allows.

Business Development and Marketing:

- The Borough is working on the following prospects:
 - Central Alaska Energy, the only lease holder in the Port District is still interested in developing a fuel tank farm at their site near the rail loop; we met with their leadership , and they are still working out internal details for how to move the project forward.
 - Nova Minerals is looking to develop critical minerals in the West Susitna region, specifically a metal known as “antimony.” They have applied for a Department of Defense grant, and if successful, will move at a quick pace to develop the resource and use Port MacKenzie for export of this commodity.
 - Contractor Use of Port MacKenzie Docks
 - The port has received interest from two major contractors seeking information, pricing, and agreement for long term use of the port as a staging and laydown area for the upcoming Port of Alaska (Anchorage) modernization construction project.
 - Modular Home Fabrication
 - A manufacturer is currently exploring options to develop a modular home fabrication facility in the Port District uplands.
 - US Department of Defense
 - Arctic Edge 2025 planning is underway, logistics teams have made multiple visits and inquiries in preparation for the exercises planned for August.

- The Department of Defense has increased its interest in utilizing Port MacKenzie for training and offloading ammunition and explosive ordnances. Logistics teams continue to visit the port.

2nd Quarter 2025 Wetland Mitigation Bank Report: We had no sales in the Second Quarter of 2025.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Mat-Su Sentinel

- **Millions in Mat-Su school funding at risk under federal freeze**
Mat-Su Sentinel

Assembly

- **Borough Assembly delays vote on new motor fuel tax until Aug. 5**
Mat-Su Sentinel

Fishing

- **Personal Use Dipnet Fishery to open July 23 at Fish Creek**
Alaska Sporting Journal
- **The first pinks of the year**
Frontiersman
- **Susitna pink salmon abundance**
Frontiersman
- **Kings rising**
Craig Medred

Community

- **Talkeetna looks for new well site following successful test well**
KTNA

Radio

- **Talkeetna looks for new well site following successful test well**
KTNA/Su-Valley Voice

Port MacKenzie expansion

- **DOT announces \$64 Million for maritime infrastructure through BUILD Program**
gCaptain
- **Construction of \$8 million new barge ramp at Port MacKenzie planned for next year**
Frontiersman
- **US Department of Transportation disburses over \$35M in maritime infrastructure funds**
Offshore Energy

Wildland Fire Danger

- **Mat-Su Burn Permit Suspension lifted**
Frontiersman
- **Burn permit suspensions lifted in most of Alaska, caution urged**
Your Alaska Link

Future Events:

- Assembly Special Meeting on Public Safety, Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 10 a.m., Station 6-2, 4568 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd., Wasilla
- Mat-Su Borough presentation to Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Evangelo's Restaurant, Wasilla