



Denali Commission
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Memorandum

To: Tessa Rinner, Director of Programs

From: Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Neimeyer".

Date: February 18, 2010

Subject: Response to FY2010 Road and Waterfront Development Project Selection

This document is in response to your memorandum dated February 11, 2010 with regard to the Transportation Advisory Committee's (TAC) project selections based upon the January 13/14, 2010 TAC meetings. The following is offered.

1. I accept the recommendation from Commission staff and the TAC for zero funding for the Gambell Community Streets project and to allow a transfer of FY2008 Federal Highways Administration "1960" funding for the Gambell Evacuation Road to the Community Streets project.
2. I accept the Commission staff recommendation for zero funding for the Metlakatla Road Surfacing project. I understand that Commission funding of \$1M for a \$10.5M project, which currently does not have other construction funding identified, would likely "sit" for a long period of time. I would encourage staff and TAC members to continue working with the community on identifying other funding sources so that the TAC can consider this project in future years.
3. I accept the Commission staff recommendation for zero funding for the Pedro Bay Road Reconstruction/Bridge Replacement project. During the TAC meeting I inquired about the status of the proposed landfill improvements including whether the design and permitting processes were completed, and if construction funding was secured. This information was not available and attempts to obtain the information from the community on the morning of the meeting were not successful. Consequently, I have a concern on whether the proposed use for the road improvements (i.e. access to the proposed landfill) would be achieved in the near term.
4. I have hand-marked on the attached table of project selections, from your 2-11-2010 memo, the above changes. Furthermore, I accept the TAC and staff recommendations for project selections either modified as noted above or unchanged on the table.

I also ask that in the preparation for the TAC strategic planning meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2010 that the following items are considered.

- A. As indicated by the recommendations for the proposed Pedro Bay and Metlakatla projects an important consideration for me is that Commission and partner funding will be used relatively soon. Also, if the significant reason(s) for the transportation improvements are tied to other construction projects we should know fully the status of the other proposed improvements. I am interested in the TAC members' thoughts on these potential funding constraints.
- B. If the proposed report on bulk fuel storage issues has taken shape before the TAC April meetings, we should provide a report on how this may impact the Denali Transportation Improvement Program (i.e. marine headers at barge landings, etc.)
- C. At the TAC meeting we had the beginning of a good dialogue on the role of the Commission (and by extension our program partners) on providing technical assistance to rural communities on how to best compete for funding with the Denali Transportation Improvement Program. My inclination is to provide more technical assistance, but I am mindful that at this time we have limited staffing resources to accomplish this goal.
- D. The recent information on Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) provided to the Commission by Ms. Carrie Kissel from the National Associations of Development Organizations may be an opportunity for enhancing technical assistance. I would encourage additional research on whether this may be a good opportunity and staff should stand ready to discuss at the TAC meeting.
- E. With the change in leadership with the Alaska Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I am interested in discussions on how the Commission might better partner with BIA on future transportation projects.
- F. I understand that the TAC members are interested in a discussion on potential "Works Bill" projects – the proposed bill that Congress is currently discussing.
- G. Lastly, I would like the opportunity to engage the TAC members on community consultation as part of the framework of tribal consultation as set forth in Presidential Executive Order 13175.

I want to acknowledge the good work that Commission staff and the TAC members combined have done to bring the transportation program to where it is today. After I was appointed, but before my start date as the Federal Co-Chair, a number of individuals shared with me that the transportation program brought distinction to the Commission. I understand now why this was shared with me.

Attachment

cc: Mike McKinnon
Jimmy Smith
Adison Smith



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MEMORANDUM

To: Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair
From: Tessa Rinner, Director of Programs
Date: February 11, 2010

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Re: **FY 2010 Road and Waterfront Development Project Selections**

The attached project selections are submitted for your review, modification and approval, in accordance with the Transportation Program, Project Selection Procedures. The projects, funding values and ranking scores reflect decisions made during the January 13-14, 2010 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held in Anchorage, AK.

Important projects to note in the review include:

- Gambell Community Streets – the zero funding level reflects the sponsor's decision to transfer funds from the existing project, Gambell Evacuation Road, to this project. Staff will investigate need for transfer as FY 2010 application indicates adequate funding is already in hand at Kawerak, Inc.
- Metlakatla Road Surfacing - Recommended by the TAC for \$1,000,000. Only \$1,000,000 in other funds is available for this \$10,500,000. Staff investigation shows little potential for expedited funding assignment by other agencies. Staff recommend no funding.
- Pedro Bay Road Reconstruction/Bridge Replacement – Recommended by the TAC for \$1,000,000. Project is in a community of 44 persons. Denali Commission funding is for bridge replacement to access a nominal number of unimproved properties beyond the primary purpose of the road, landfill access. Staff recommend no funding.

The approved Project List will be the basis for project sponsor notification letters, project assignments to program partners and an update to the Denali Transportation Improvement Program. In addition to the list that is provided for your review there were some projects that were either removed from consideration by the project sponsor, or tabled by the TAC so that further information could be gathered, or the project could be considered in a future funding cycle when it is better positioned to proceed successfully. Reasons for removal and tabling will be updated in the draft TAC meeting minutes from the January 13-14, 2010 selection meeting.

Transportation staff will send letters to both the successful and unsuccessful applicants. The letters will detail the nature of the award and additional information such as award funding timeline, program partner assignment (if known at the time the letters are sent) and staff contact information. The letters will also detail reasons that a project was either not selected, or was ineligible.

| FY 2010 Road Project Selections | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|-------|
| Ranking | Community/Project | Funding Amount | Score |
| 1 | Tuntatuliak Boardwalk Extension | \$1,000,000 | 123 |
| 2 | Gambell - Community Streets | \$0 | 120 |
| 3 | Dillingham - Tower Road Reconstruction | \$925,000 | 109.3 |
| 4 | Cordova - Whiteshed Road | \$1,000,000 | 106.9 |
| 5 | Northway - Access Road Improvements | \$500,000 | 103.5 |
| 5 | Tanacross - Road Improvements | \$500,000 | 103.5 |
| 5 | Teller - Airport Road Dust Control | \$75,000 | 103.5 |
| 6 | Healy Community Roads Surfacing | \$500,000 | 102.7 |
| 7 | Metlaktla - Road Surfacing | \$1,000,000 | 101 |
| 8 | Klawock - Community Streets Paving | \$1,000,000 | 100 |
| 9 | Noorvik - Cemetery Road | \$957,650 | 94.9 |
| 10 | Elfin Cove - Boardwalk Phase II | \$136,455 | 94.6 |
| 11 | St. Mary's & Pitka's Point - Dust Control | \$250,000 | 94.3 |
| 12 | Alakanuk - Community Streets | \$216,000 | 92.3 |
| 12 | Scammon Bay - Community Streets Rehab | \$215,000 | 92.3 |
| 13 | Wrangell - Downtown Streets Revitalization | \$1,000,000 | 89.9 |
| 14 | Tununak - Community Streets Reconstruction | \$200,000 | 86.4 |
| 15 | Port Alexander - Boardwalk Phase II | \$295,653 | 83.7 |
| 16 | Noatak - DeLong Terminal Winter Access | \$400,000 | 82.9 |
| 17 | King Salmon & Naknek - School Bus Roads | \$150,000 | 81.7 |
| 18 | Pedro Bay - Road & Bridge Replacement | \$1,000,000 | 73.6 |
| FY10 Roads Projects Total | | \$11,320,758 | |

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| FY 2010 Waterfront Project Selections | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|-------|
| Ranking | Community/Project | Funding Amount | Score |
| 1 | Old Harbor - City Dock Reconstruction | \$1,000,000 | 142 |
| 2 | Sand Point - New Harbor Float | \$1,000,000 | 125.6 |
| 3 | Bethel - Small Boat Harbor Dredging | \$500,000 | 123.3 |
| 4 | Whitter - Small Boat Harbor Phase I | \$990,000 | 122 |
| 5 | Thorne Bay - Davidson Landing Phase II Floats | \$562,761 | 112.3 |
| 6 | Ketchikan - Thomas Basin Finger Floats | \$900,000 | 105.3 |
| 7 | Tenakee - Springs Ferry Dock Improvements | \$409,365 | 104.9 |
| 8 | Kotzebue - Swan lake Harbor Expansion | \$500,000 | 103.6 |
| 9 | Ketchikan - Knudson Cove Harbor Launch Ramp Replacement | \$800,000 | 102.1 |
| 10 | Angoon - Ferry Terminal Passenger Facility | \$68,228 | 81.9 |
| 11 | Kake - Ferry Terminal Passenger Facility | \$136,455 | 81.9 |
| 12 | Wrangell - City Dock Rehabilitation | \$238,000 | 80.4 |
| FY10 Waterfront Development Projects Total | | \$7,111,581 | |

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