

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
 Date: January 11, 2011
 Action: Passed
 Vote: 7-0
 Action Amended January 25, 2011
 Passed 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 11-01 (Amended)

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2012 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council annually reviews its congressional funding priorities and approves a resolution identifying those priorities for use by the President of the United States of America and United States Congress in development of the federal capital budget;

WHEREAS, the City carefully evaluated and selected the most essential and obligatory projects and ranked them herein according to the City's federal funding needs;

WHEREAS, Alaska's senate delegates, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Mark Begich, are accepting funding requests from municipalities, like the City of Bethel, if received on or before February 17, 2011;

WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel's requisite priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Top Six Priorities	Request
1. Dredging of Bethel Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach	\$3,000,000
2. Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation	\$100,000
3. River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2	\$3,000,000
4. Dredging of Kuskokwim River	\$25,000,000 With no match funds required from the City of Bethel
5. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$4,000,000
6. Donut Hole Road	\$2,000,000
Total	\$12,100,000

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#1 Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach

WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River visit Bethel by boat to purchase goods and services, access government services, participate in educational opportunities, meet family members and friends, and return to their village by boat;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is used extensively by subsistence hunters and fishers as they exercise their rights to harvest fish and wildlife from the Kuskokwim River and adjoining streams, rivers, ponds, and riverbank access points;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers the Bethel Small Boat Harbor a "harbor of refuge" for boaters caught on the Kuskokwim River during storms, natural disasters, or other life-threatening events;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel sells boat slip permits annually in the small boat harbor in an effort to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its eight floating docks;

WHEREAS, a hydrographic survey completed by WH Pacific in 2010 revealed a zero footage depth at the deepest part of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor at the mean low water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is impractical and nearly impossible;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, is administering a \$500,000 grant from the Denali Commission on behalf of the City of Bethel to design next year's dredging and bank stabilization of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, the dredging design will include the entrance channel and clearly identify the area of dredging responsibility for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, completion of the dredging design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisitions will prepare the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction dredging, making this congressional funding request timely and appropriate;

WHEREAS, the lack of maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the last 13 years has created a situation in which the amount of material to be removed from the Bethel Small Boat Harbor basin and entrance channel qualify this project as a capital construction project;

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WHEREAS, over the last thirteen years, the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach have experienced severe bank destabilization and infilling through runoff and river current deposits;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach will cost approximately \$3,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Construction section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY2012 United States Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use as dedicated funding to dredge the Bethel Small Boat Harbor and its channel approach.

#2 Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation

WHEREAS, the Kuskokwim River is the largest river in the State of Alaska along which 23 villages and towns are located;

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel, with a population of approximately 6,000 people, is the largest town located along the Kuskokwim River and serves as the river transportation hub for Kuskokwim River villages in the southwest quadrant of Alaska, an area that encompasses slightly more than 57,000 square miles;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is home to the only medium draft port in western Alaska, providing a regional maritime transportation corridor that is absolutely essential in a roadless and isolated area;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for ensuring that the Kuskokwim River remains a viable navigable waterway;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Cargo Dock and Petro Port can only moor two vessels over 300 feet at a time, requiring vessels to moor and anchor in the river at large;

WHEREAS, barges, pilot boats, and large vessels over 300 feet long are finding it impossible or severely difficult to moor and anchor safely in the wide section of the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel due to changing river characteristics and increased river traffic;

WHEREAS, the amount of goods, supplies, equipment, vehicles, housing units, and fuel being transported on the Kuskokwim River to Bethel, other Kuskokwim river villages, and

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the Donlin Creek mine site have increased markedly over the last ten years as the Delta populations and economic activity have increased;

WHEREAS, Commercial fishers, subsistence users, sport fishers and hunters, and commercial boating operators routinely complain to City of Bethel administrators and Port of Bethel personnel about the lack of navigability of the Kuskokwim River;

WHEREAS, a reconnaissance study of Kuskokwim River navigability will cost approximately \$100,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Investigations section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$100,000.00 in the FY 2012 United States Budget to be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete this critical Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigability.

#3 Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2

WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greatly assisted the community of Bethel when it constructed the Eastern Addition Seawall, a 1,200 linear foot wall protecting residents and property, including the Bethel Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase 1 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project in 2007, when it deposited basketball sized rocks at the base of the seawall to reduce scour and hold the pipe piles in place;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 entails the replacement of tiebacks, steel rods that are welded to a group of ten pipe piles as a set and anchored 54 feet back to “deadmen,” frozen in the permafrost;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is vital to repair a section of seawall that protects people, homes, personal and commercial property, and the Bethel Small Boat Harbor from the ravages of the river: floods, ice scour during breakup, bank destabilization, and floating debris;

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WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves to support a portion of the City Dock and the mooring of large vessels at the behest of the Port of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves the City Cargo Dock and the Cargo Dock serves approximately 26,000 people in 54 villages that occupy 57,826 square miles in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River drainage;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is expected to cost \$4,000,000 with a useful life of fifty (50) years, according to Corps projections;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, or an expected \$1,000,000, to the project from its dedicated seawall maintenance account, per the funding requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs \$3,000,000 in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the Federal Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2012 United States Budget to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will be dedicated to completion of Phase 2 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project.

#4 Dredging of Kuskokwim River
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WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for ensuring that the Kuskokwim River remains a viable navigable waterway for commercial, industrial, recreational, and subsistence users;

WHEREAS, the number of boats using the Kuskokwim River to transport goods, supplies, equipment, vehicles, housing units, and fuel has increased markedly in the last ten years as river delta village populations and economic activity have increased;

WHEREAS, barges, pilot boats, and large vessels over 300 feet long are finding it impossible or severely difficult to moor and anchor safely in the wide section of the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel due to shallow water resulting from changing river characteristics;

WHEREAS, Commercial fishers, subsistence users, sport fishers and hunters, and commercial boating operators routinely complain to City of Bethel administrators and Port of Bethel personnel about the lack of navigability of the Kuskokwim River;

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WHEREAS, dredging a deep channel in the Kuskokwim River from Steamboat Slough to the mouth of the Johnson River would improve navigation by reducing or eliminating the number of ships getting stuck each year and the number of trip delay days associated with being stuck;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the Federal Government provide \$25,000,000 with no match funds required from the City of Bethel in the FY 2012 United States Budget so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can manage this project to completion.

#5 Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility with a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one need voted by community members to include in the aquatic training and health center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to all of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, aid in the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of volunteer community members that meet once a month to assist in the development of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center by providing discussion, analysis, and making recommendations to City Council;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel paid Architects Alaska, Inc. to complete 65% design development, the majority of preconstruction architectural and engineering work necessary for construction;

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WHEREAS, to ensure the City can afford to construct and operate the planned facility, the City of Bethel applied for and was accepted by the Foraker Group to have all project documents produced thus far reviewed and assessed for accuracy and appropriateness;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center is on track to be the first pool in Alaska to achieve silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council;

WHEREAS, the City requests that \$4,000,000 be put in the FY 2012 Capital Budget of the United States of America for the City of Bethel to pay for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$4,000,000.00 in the FY 2012 United States Budget to aid in the new construction of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center.

#6	Construction of the Donut Hole Road in Bethel
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WHEREAS, the primary need for a new road connecting Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway with Ptarmigan Street is to reduce response time for emergency vehicles leaving the Bethel Fire Station or Bethel Police Station and responding to people living in Tundra Ridge and on Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 put a severe burden on the community in terms of time and cost;

WHEREAS, people living in Tundra Ridge were disproportionately affected by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road because they had to take a longer, circuitous route to access the airport, Larsen subdivision, Kasayulie subdivision, and west-side businesses;

WHEREAS, the 35-mile road system in the community emanates from a large ten-mile oval, referred to as "the donut hole," inside of which is land owned by the city, native allottees, and the Bethel Native Corporation;

WHEREAS, the proposed road would be less than two miles long, a width that ensures one safe lane on each side, ample shoulder space, and a proper hydroseeded slope to the base;

WHEREAS, constructing the road would bisect the Bethel community oval in half, giving nearly equal access to people driving from the east and west of town;

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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is willing and able to provide sand, heavy equipment, and personnel to assist in the development of the new road;

WHEREAS, a new road between the state highway and Ptarmigan Street is expected to benefit residents by saving time, fuel cost, and vehicle maintenance cost;

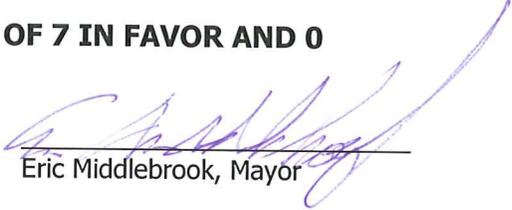
WHEREAS, the projected cost of the new road, including environmental compliances, right-of-ways, survey work, engineering, and construction is \$2,000,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$2,000,000 in its FY 2012 United States Budget to design and construct the Donut Hole Road in Bethel;

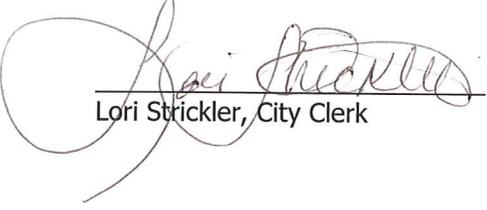
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, hereby set and affirm that these five critically needed projects are prioritized according to the needs of the community.

ENACTED THIS 11th DAY OF JANUARY 2011 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

AMENDED THIS 25th DAY OF JANUARY 2011 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk