

CITY OF DILLINGHAM
Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan — FY 2026–2032
Cover Memo — City Council | July 31, 2026

TO: Mayor Alice Ruby and Members of the City Council
FROM: Chris Maines, PhD, Planning Department Director
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan FY 2026–2032 — City Council Draft for Review and Adoption

Purpose of This Memo

This memo transmits the City Council Draft of the **Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2032** for your review and action, accompanied by a resolution for formal adoption. The CIP is the product of a comprehensive project evaluation process conducted by the Dillingham Planning Commission — a scored and documented prioritization of thirty-one (31) capital improvement projects submitted for Council consideration in accordance with **DMC Chapter 4.05** and **AS § 29.35.100**.

The Capital Projects Fund was established and funded through the adopted Fiscal Year 2026 budget, ensuring the City's capital infrastructure remained protected during a demanding budget cycle. The Council's deliberate approach to sequencing that work has allowed the Planning Commission to complete a thorough review and feedback process, resulting in a stronger and more defensible CIP than would otherwise have been possible. The plan before you is ready for adoption.

The Council is asked to hold a public hearing, consider any final revisions, and adopt the plan by resolution. The accompanying resolution is ready for execution upon adoption.

Background and Process

The Planning Commission conducted an independent, multi-criterion scoring process for all thirty-one (31) projects in the CIP project inventory. Six (6) Planning Commission members each independently scored every project using a **weighted six-criterion rubric** with a maximum possible score of **500 points**. Scores were then averaged across all six commissioners to produce a composite ranking. The criteria and their weights are:

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Economic Development	× 13	Level of direct correlation to infrastructure required to strengthen or develop the economy.
Project Need	× 15	The degree to which this project is necessary at this time.
Quality of Life	× 18	Adds educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities available to citizens.
Health / Safety	× 20	Positive impact upon health status or prevention of accident, death, or environmental harm.
Reduces Costs	× 12	Reduces operating costs without negatively impacting services.

Comprehensive Plan	× 22	Degree to which the project is included in the City's Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives.
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Based on the composite scores, projects were organized into **three priority tiers**, with the threshold for High Priority set at a composite average of **350 points or greater** — reflecting the Commission's judgment that projects reaching that level represent clear, cross-commissioner consensus on urgency and need:

Tier	Score Range	Count	Definition
High Priority	≥ 350	5 projects	Strong consensus across commissioners. Urgent or essential; pursue funding and programming in the near term.
Medium Priority	300 – 349	8 projects	Solid support. Necessary for functional public services; monitor for funding opportunities and phased implementation.
Lower Priority	Below 300	18 projects	Limited consensus at this time. Deferrable; enhances the community but funded only as resources allow.

Key Themes Across the CIP

Several considerations cut across the project list and should frame the Council's deliberation:

- Infrastructure is the foundation. The highest-scoring projects are concentrated in water, fire protection, erosion control, and public safety — systems that underpin every other community goal. The Commission's scores consistently reflect a community that understands the cost of deferred infrastructure maintenance.
- Funding is available but competitive. Several top-tier projects are already partially or fully funded (Airport Waterline Extension, Harbor Upgrades, Snagpoint Erosion). Adoption of the CIP strengthens the City's position for the next round of SRF, FEMA BRIC, MARAD, and federal discretionary grant cycles.
- The CIP and the Comprehensive Plan are aligned. The 2036 Comprehensive Plan, currently before the Council for adoption, identifies public facilities and infrastructure investment as a cross-cutting priority. The CIP operationalizes that commitment with scored, costed, and funded project entries.
- The Legislative Priority List deadline is approaching. Under DMC § 4.05.070, the preliminary Legislative Priority List must be submitted to the Council by the first Thursday of August. Adoption of the CIP at this meeting provides the documented foundation required for that submission.
- Commissioner consensus is strong where it matters most. The five High Priority projects — Waterline Extension/Airport, Snagpoint Erosion, Hydrant System Upgrade, Waskey & Emperor Subdivision, and New Public Safety Building — reflect the clearest cross-commissioner agreement in the scoring process. These are the City's strongest candidates for near-term grant pursuit and legislative asks.

Next Steps Following Adoption

Upon adoption of the CIP, the Planning Department will move forward on the following:

- Legislative Priority List. A preliminary list will be developed from the High and Medium Priority projects and submitted to Council by the first Thursday of August 2026 for review, public hearing, and adoption — in time to support pre-session outreach to the Alaska State Legislature.
- Annual Work Plan Integration. The CIP will be incorporated into the annual capital budget cycle. Year 1 projects will be presented for Council appropriation consideration at the next available budget cycle.
- Grant Pursuit. Planning Department staff will identify and pursue grant opportunities aligned with the High Priority project list, with particular attention to SRF, FEMA BRIC, USDA Rural Development, EDA, and federal infrastructure programs.
- FY 2027 CIP Update. The annual update process will be initiated no later than January 2027 to ensure the June submission deadline is met in the coming cycle, consistent with DMC § 4.05.070.

Requested Action

The Planning Department requests that the City Council:

- Open and conduct a public hearing on the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2032;
- Consider any public testimony and direct any final revisions;
- Adopt the CIP by resolution, authorizing the Mayor to execute the adoption resolution; and
- Direct the City Manager to develop and submit a preliminary Legislative Priority List to the Council by the first Thursday of August 2026.