

- **Grants/Projects update:**

- Compost Facility

Update – I submitted a FY27 CDS request (Congressionally Directed Spending) for this project to Senator Murkowski's office through the CDS portal. The submission was similar to last year's request except I added 2 new letters of support, photos of the collapsed quonset, and added 5% to the construction budget and 10% to the equipment budget. I indicated that we could still do the project without the equipment which was a chipper and pick-up truck. There is still no NOFO published yet for SWIFR. It is unclear whether there will be more funding for this program.

- DRC - Recycling Center

Update – The PSA (Professional Services Agreement with a NTP (Notice to Proceed) for 15% has been sent so the engineering is moving forward. We had a brief update meeting with the Region 10 project person and will have another one in March.

- Good River Bridge Repair and Embankment Stabilization Project

Update – I checked in again with Nikki Navio of the Denali Commission while at the SE Conference. We will be submitting a supplemental request once we have the 100% design documents which will be in early May at which point we will have a better handle on costs. John Barry and I will be preparing this request with input from RESPEC.

- PIDP – Dock/Floats Protection - MARAD funding

No Update – The grant has been submitted, and we are awaiting notification – one way or the other. We can still resubmit for 2026 pending notification.

[MARAD-250225-001 Updated PIDP Notice of Funding Opportunity | MARAD](#)

- FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program for the sidepath from Good River corner to the NPS Boundary

No Update – The application has been submitted and we are awaiting notification.

- Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program (RTA) Application

No Update – Applications are still being reviewed. Nothing has been posted regarding a notification date.

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>

- FEMA – AFG Water Tender

No Update – The contract has been signed. Extension was requested for the period of performance on 2/9/26. I reached out to FEMA at region 10 because I had not heard a response since I submitted the extension request. This is part of the email I received on 2/24:

Due to the current federal funding hiatus, I will not be able to return emails or telephone calls until I return to duty upon conclusion of the funding hiatus. I will be out of the office starting Tuesday February 17, 2025. Ingrid Mejia Jimenez Preparedness Officer, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) | Grant Programs Directorate

- Septage Management

Update – I was speaking with one of our representatives at Village Safe Water (VSW) who had contacted me about the next step after the PER, which typically is to submit a capital request for a project based on the PER recommendations. I told her we were nowhere even close to that yet, we have no authority for water/wastewater operations, nor have we had a townhall yet to discuss the options in the PER. I additionally explained about how, the PER, in my view, was not adequately updated to reflect our current situation.

Michelle concurred and suggested that we submit a PER update funding request through VSW based on the changes that occurred during the PER period. One of the many statements in support of needing an update included in the application that Michelle Beadle of VSW prepared for us and describes the main problem as:

“During the summer of 2025 while the preliminary engineering report was being developed, the Juneau wastewater treatment facility notified Gustavus that they would no longer accept any septage from the community, thus making the "no action" alternative non-feasible as well. Septage is piling up in the community with no clear option for disposal. The community is in need of updates to this current PER to reflect the change in circumstances and establish a plan for septage disposal.”

The application requires an approved Letter of Support for the funding request which you have before you today. The funding for the update to the PER is a maximum is 25K, if approved. I recommend we submit this request so we can bring the issues and options to a more current status. Assuming the update funding is approved, and we can move forward, with more current information and hopefully additional options, it will give us and ADEC a better basis on which to have a conversation with council and the public.

From Michelle Beadle:

I wanted to add to this information that, if Gustavus is awarded funding, it would be handled in exactly the same manner as the PER has been with Village Safe Water managing the grant, financials, contractors, etc. An approved PER is required for applying for design/construction funding through the Capital Improvements Project. This is further explained under the header “Construction Application Process” on this page: [Information for Communities Requesting Capital Funding for Water, Sewer or Solid Waste Projects | AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Update –Jim Mackovjak and I met with AML on Friday February 20th for a what is next and who is doing what in the project. AML is the subrecipient for SS4A. They will be sending us an outline of the next steps. Jim will be the primary person who will assist with logistics and outreach for what will be needed to happen in Gustavus.

- Thriving Communities Cohort

Update - We met with AML on 2/20/26 in their office while I was in Juneau for AML legislative meetings to discuss the next steps and to review the company that would best meet our needs for this process. We chose DOWL as the appropriate company from a list of pre-approved contractors. ADOT has sent us a Task Order form to complete as the next step in engaging with DOWL, the City and the community. I still have not heard of any interest other than Justin Marchbanks to engage with the process. I will need to write something up for the NEWS bulletin to solicit interest. It is supposed to be a community driven process.

- **Strengthening Gateway Communities:** We had a meeting with the NPS on 2/27. Among a few EMS items, we discussed EMS/Cruise line passenger transport and the need for GVFD responders to have patient information so they could submit for billing ambulance services. The MOU between GLBA and the City will need to be updated. We also discussed support from the NPS for maintaining the Wilson/Rink Creek Road corridor since it is crucial to all of our power needs and the most expensive road to maintain in our roads budget. There was a discussion about working with Aramark for more readily available and affordable transportation from Bartlett Cove so that local businesses could be frequented. More issues surfaced for discussion. Liesl and Jenn Todd both took notes and will work together to consolidate those for a report that we can send out or post on the website.
- **Storm Event Debrief:** We held a debrief meeting with several stakeholders on the Snow Event. NPS, ADOT&PF, SEARHC, GVFD, DRC, AP&T, and GBC-Roads. We discussed infrastructure issues/damages/future preventative measures; safety issues and concerns, communication; resources and more. Liesl took notes and will be writing up some minutes from that discussion.

- A list of other tasks/items:
 - Ben and I attended the virtual Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DSHEM) Applicant Briefing to learn the process and forms needed to submit recovery projects and to comply with the grant requirements related to damages incurred by the Southeast Winter Storm. We need to submit those before March 18th as we progress to the Recovery Scoping Meeting. This is where we hope to recover the additional costs for snow removal, flood mitigation, and other infrastructure damage.
 - Attended both the Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit and Alaska Municipal League legislative meetings. Among other sessions and meeting with state planners and AML on our projects , Senator Sullivan gave an update on which he listed airport safety and AWOS funding. I spoke with him asking if there was a priority list for getting repairs to the systems and articulated that missing jet service in Gustavus during the summer season due to AWOS breakdown causes a lot of disruption in the community's tourism industry. He directed one of his staff to contact me. I have not heard back so I will need to reach out to them. We scheduled and met with one presenter who was an attorney representing the PFAS Class Action Lawsuit.
 - Regularly attended scheduled Infrastructure Office Hours and other meetings and seminars, including community engagement, grant/project updates, and our Thriving Communities cohort.
 - Various HR items, including writing and posting Job Announcements for the Fire Chief position.
 - Worked with Melisa and Mark Berry on a RE-VEEP Grant submission for an energy audit and boiler replacement in the library.
 - Provided information to GVFD on the RHTP (Rural Health Transformation Program) funding for which they hope to submit a request for some department training needs. Leah is also working with SEREMS who, as I understand it, will be submitting a regional request.
 - Continued coordination on roads and snow issues

- Council Questions or Comments?