



Engineering and Public Works Department
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DATE: December 2, 2024

TO: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Chair
Public Works and Facilities Committee

FROM: Denise Koch, Engineering & Public Works Director

SUBJECT: FY2026 Draft Legislative Capital Priorities List

I am asking PWFC to shepherd the FY2026 Draft Legislative Capital Priorities list to the next phase, Assembly ranking. Given the Mendenhall Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and the importance of the response to the community, I strongly recommend that the Assembly eventually narrow the Legislative Capital Priorities to a top 10 list. (Last year's list had 21 priorities.)

All 40 advisory boards and commissions were invited to provide input to the committee on the draft priorities, including proposing new projects for your consideration.¹ The attached condensed draft list summarizes that input. The project order in the draft list reflects FY2025 rankings. Changes from the comprehensive FY2025 list adopted in February 2024² include:

REMOVING from FY2025 List:

- **Public Safety Radio Improvements.** This project received voter-approved funding via General Obligation bond.³
- **JSD HVAC and Heating System Upgrades.** This project received DOE Renew America's Schools grant funding.
- **Municipal Composting.** CBJ has received funding for the composting site.
- **Aurora Harbor Rebuild – Phase IV.** This project received FY25 CDS funding.

ADDING:

- **Glacial Outburst Flood Response, Mitigation & Preparedness**
CBJ has included a placeholder for Flood Mitigation efforts as the organization, the community, multi-agency partners, and stakeholders continue to investigate both short and long-term mitigation.
- **Aurora Harbor Drive Down Float**
The Docks & Harbors Board proposed the inclusion of this project. While the project was recently awarded a MARAD PIDP grant,⁴ D&H hopes to secure state support for the \$2.8M non-federal match requirement.

¹ Board and committee preferences were required to be formally adopted by the body. Due to unanticipated meeting cancellations, neither the UAB or SRRC were able to provide input in time for this meeting.

² https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FY25-CBJ-Legislative-Capital-Priorities-List_Adopted.pdf

³ <https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Voter-Information-2024.pdf> (See Proposition 1)

How will CBJ use this list?

This list is submitted to the State and Federal delegations annually. It also informs staff on what projects to prioritize. The adopted list will be submitted to the State delegation. However, it is not as straightforward with the Federal delegation. Only certain budget subaccounts are eligible for congressionally directed spending. Historically this has included Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Housing, and Economic Development. While guidance on the FY26 CDS process has not yet been released, and changes in federal and congressional leadership and funding sources could similarly change which projects are most competitive, we can make educated guesses based on FY25 and insight from our federal delegation. CBJ staff will work closely with our lobbyist to advance the top priorities on this list in the most competitive way possible, considering available funding and spheres of influence of our delegation.

Next Steps?

After PWFC edits, amends, and passes the list, Engineering & Public Works will distribute it to the Assembly for ranking on December 10, 2024. Members will have until December 20 to submit their priorities, which will then be reviewed at the Assembly meeting on January 6, 2025, before adoption by the body at the January 27 Assembly Committee of the Whole Meeting in advance of the Legislative breakfast.

Requested Action: 1) Decide whether to remove and add the projects listed in this memo. 2) Decide whether or not to recommend to the Assembly that the final list be narrowed to a top 10. 3) Approve the list to distribute to the Assembly for ranking.

Attachments:

A: FY26 LCP New Project Submissions for 12.2.24_PWFC

B: FY26 LCP Board and Commission Input w Summary

C: FY2026 CBJ Legislative Capital Priorities DRAFT for Review_11.27.24

D: FY2026 CBJ Legislative Priorities Board and Commission Input Requested Cover Memo

⁴ <https://www.ktoo.org/2024/11/13/juneaus-aurora-harbor-among-6-alaska-coastal-projects-to-split-104m-from-feds/>