

## **Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the CBJ Legislative Capital Priorities List**

by Katie Koester, City Manager

### **Q: What are the Legislative Capital Priorities?**

A: The CBJ Legislative Capital Priorities (LCP) is a document that lays out community priorities for capital projects, including a project description, rationale for why it's needed (benefits to the community), description of progress to date (money raised, plans drawn up, etc.), and estimated total cost. For CBJ projects, additional information is provided on the timeline for completion. Facilities that have alternative funding streams are not included on this list: for example, the Airport, or projects that can be funded through Passenger Fees. See graphic on the following page for a diagram of how the different plans and lists relate to each other.

NOTE: Inclusion on the Legislative Capital Priorities is not a funding request. From CBJ's standpoint, it is a mechanism to prioritize projects and raise awareness of a needed project to increase chances of funding from various sources. Nominating a project for inclusion in the LCP should not be thought of as a request for municipal funding.

### **Q: Are the "legislative priorities" the same as the Capital Improvement Plan?**

A: No, they are a prioritized list of projects that are pulled from various CBJ plans, including the Comprehensive Plan, Area Plans, and the Six-year Capital Improvement Plan. The Legislative Priorities are "short list" of projects on which CBJ will focus particular attention during the upcoming legislative session and with the federal delegation. (The goal is to get at least partial funding for a project included in the state capital budget or federal earmark.)

CBJ's "short list" of Legislative Priorities should have a limited number of projects on it. An attempt is made to phase projects so that funding requests range in size depending on available funds and objective. For the State Legislature, project descriptions are inputted into an online system lawmakers use to prioritize funding requests (CAPSIS). These are due in February. Federal priorities are also solicited by the delegation through an online platform. The Assembly will designate projects that have a nexus with federal funding opportunities for submission to the delegation through the Legislative Priority process.

### **Q: What is a capital project?**

A: A capital project is a major, non-recurring budget item that results in a fixed asset (like a building, road, parcel of land, or major piece of equipment) with a useful life of 20-50 years. Designing and building a new library is a capital project. Planning and implementing an after-school reading program is not a capital project. Most of the projects in the LCP are CBJ projects, but some are community projects spearheaded by a non-profit organization or state or federal agency (e.g., Alaska DOT). To be included on the LCP projects must have an estimated total project cost of at least \$1,000,000.

**Q: Is the Legislative Capital Priorities list just “wish list,” and if so, what’s the point of writing one?**

A: The Legislative Priorities list does include projects that are aspirational, and as such may have items that are so large or expensive, that it is hard to imagine completion in the near future. However, articulating these priorities helps guide the Assembly and the community through small steps that lead up to the larger goal and advocate towards a common goal. It will take time and discipline to keep the list an accurate and living document.

There are several reasons to include longer term projects on the Legislative Priority List, even when it seems like little progress is being made in accomplishing projects: 1) It helps focus attention on community needs. 2) It helps groups raise money for projects if the sponsor can say that the project has been identified as a community priority in the CIP. 3) Typically the more priority a municipality places on a project, the greater the chances it for a legislative appropriation.

# ~~12. Aurora Harbor Rebuild Phase IV~~

~~**AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1M TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$11.5M**~~

~~**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & UPDATE:**~~

~~Request for funding to continue the reconstruction of the Aurora Harbor Facility. Past work has been divided into segments. This request would continue preliminary design and begin permitting tasks.~~

~~**PUBLIC PROCESS:** The project has been through a long-term planning process with community outreach. It is the fourth phase of the larger reconstruction plans. Docks & Harbors has submitted a \$5M ADOT Harbor Facilities grant for FY25 Legislative consideration. If successful it will be locally matched with \$5M and nearly complete the rebuild of Aurora Harbor.~~

~~**TIMELINE:** Once funding is secured, 18-24 month design and construction timeline.~~

~~**WHO WILL MAINTAIN AND OPERATE?** CBJ~~

~~**PROJECT GOAL:** Replace critical infrastructure and support maritime economy.~~

# 14. Shore Power at Dock 16B

**AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$20M**

**AMOUNT SECURED: \$10M Marine Passenger Fees TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$54.25M**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & UPDATE:**

The project would provide the final design and construct the electrical infrastructure (substation, feeder cables, batteries, etc.) and shore power infrastructure (submarine cables, power connection floats, cable positioning devices) at the two CBJ-owned cruise ship docks. The electrical infrastructure could also service ground transportation as it transitions to electric vehicles. The project benefits the community by improving air quality and reducing noise pollution from cruise ships that connect to shore power while hoteling in port, and by upgrading the electrical infrastructure at Juneau's waterfront. The elimination of ship GHG emissions furthers the community's climate action goals of switching from fossil fuels to renewable hydropower as well as enables the cruise lines to better meet their sustainability goals. The project benefits the tourism sector of the community.

While the full project includes two docks, the amount requested this year with the amount secured would fund the completion of one dock. CBJ plans to pursue additional grant funding for the project. CBJ submitted an EPA Clean Port Grant for consideration in 2024, if successful no legislative assistance will be necessary. Grant awardees are expected to be notified in September 2024.

**TIMELINE:** Preconstruction phase to be completed by 2025. Construction phase to be completed by 2027.

**WHO WILL MAINTAIN AND OPERATE?** CBJ

**PROJECT GOAL:** Reduce emissions, improve air quality and economic development.

# 18. Auke Bay New Breakwater

**AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$5M**

**AMOUNT SECURED: \$1.8M** (CBJ commitment)

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: TBD (\$50M placeholder)**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & UPDATE:**

The requested funding would allow for the preliminary planning and design phases, including permit acquisition. This opens the opportunity for the construction of a new breakwater at the end of Statter Harbor. The current facility has reached its useful life and needs to be replaced. The new facility would allow for more moorage and provide economic stimulus to the community. CBJ would be the local sponsor for the US Army Corps of Engineers, who is federally responsible for the feasibility analysis, design and construction of the breakwater.

Local match is required under federal law and is available through Docks & Harbors. Senator Murkowski has added \$500K as Congressionally Designated Spending in the FY24 appropriation bill and is awaiting Congressional action. The US Army Corps of Engineering feasibility study kicked off in September 2024. This will be a three-year planning effort which requires federal funding each year. Senator Murkowski has submitted a \$600K CDS in the FY25 Budget to continue supporting the project. CBJ Docks & Harbors has sufficient in-house match.

**PUBLIC PROCESS:** Identified as a Legislative Priority for FY2023.

**TIMELINE:** Once funding is secured, 3 year design and construction timeline.

**WHO WILL MAINTAIN AND OPERATE?** CBJ

**PROJECT GOAL:** Increase moorage and recapitalization of aging infrastructure.

# 20. North Douglas Boat Ramp Expansion

**AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$250,000 TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$20M**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & UPDATE:**

Requested funding would accomplish the first steps to expanding the North Douglas Launch Ramp Facility. These include planning, research and permitting to initiate the project.

**PUBLIC PROCESS:** Docks and Harbors has solicited public input on the concept. **TIMELINE:**

Once funding is secured, 18-24 month design and construction timeline.

**WHO WILL MAINTAIN AND OPERATE?** CBJ

**PROJECT GOAL:** Improve safety and expand boating access & transportation.