



# Memo

To: Dan Grimmer – Acting City Manager  
From: Joy L. Baker – Project Manager/Acting Port Director *JLB*  
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission; Planning Commission  
Date: 5/12/2025  
Re: Port Director Report/Projects Status Update – May 2025

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**Administration:**

As the summer season approaches, staff are responding to customer inquiries and field requests for areas to work on equipment and vessels. As the snow/ice continue to melt, cleanup and organization of the docks and uplands is underway, with any repairs and/or maintenance noted and performed to ensure the facility is ready for users. Deputy Harbormaster, Alex Thomson, has returned to the Port from Public Works, with Accounting Tech III, Caitlin LeClair, arriving on 27 May to provide coverage of the Port Office for the summer season.

Budgetary efforts continue to isolate season startup expenses necessary to close out FY2025, from costs to be expended in FY2026 for maintenance, repairs, improvements, and general operating expenses. Port and Public Works are coordinating the field work necessary to ensure continuity with both department's schedules and personnel capabilities. We appreciate the team work.

**Strategic Development Plan:**

PND and Corvus will present a draft of Phase C of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) during a Work Session scheduled for Thursday, 15 May 2025. Phase C is the portion of the SDP, which is anticipated to be final before the fiscal year closes on 30 June 2025. The consultants will capture comments from the commission, public and staff. The final report will reflect a solid, long-range plan for future port development, and employ strategies to achieve completion of projects identified as essential to the facility.

**Causeway:****Arctic Deep Draft Port – Nome Modifications (Construction Bid Award):**

The construction solicitation for Phase 1A, representing a smaller project scope from the original Phase 1 plan, closed on 28 April 2025. All proposals received on Sam.gov, are currently under review by the USACE Alaska District's Contracting Office. Providing there is an eligible bid within funding limits, award is anticipated by Aug/Sep 2025.

**Local Service Facilities (LSF) Inspection Integration:**

The City design team stands by to respond to questions from USACE on the Phase 1A proposals to ensure bidder conformance to requirements on the LSF components. Both teams continue with design of Phase 2 (dredging), with bid package solicitation anticipated to be released in May 2026, with award potentially in the Sep 2026 timeframe.

*U.S. DOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Pre-Award: Discussions continue with program staff on the remaining pre-award requirements for this grant. This will then allow the \$11.25M grant agreement to be executed, along with a separate funding agreement for the \$1.025M that Rep Peltola successfully placed into the FY2025 USDOT budget to supplement the PIDP award to Nome.*

**Harbor:**

Inner Harbor CAP 107 Study (Deepen/Widen the Inner Basin):

*The USACE finally provided written communication advising that this project no longer qualifies for a Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) 107 Study path due to construction costs exceeding the \$10M funding cap. The Alaska District is now recommending a General Investigation (GI) Study, which was the path used for the port expansion feasibility report. Considering the initial cost-share agreement was signed in 2020, it is frustrating to hear we will need to start over, even though there are a few elements that can be utilized for a GI Study. We continue working with the project team on next steps, including the estimated local cost-share and proposed schedule (as well as potential remedies through the CODEL).*

Snake River Moorage Facility:

*The City has made several inquiries to the USDOT/RAISE (BUILD) program personnel to begin the pre-award requirement phase which must be completed prior to executing a grant agreement. The federal agency continues to advise that they will be reaching out soon to facilitate the process typically following the award of program funds.*

**Port Industrial Pad:**

West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

On 28 Apr 2025, the Nome Common Council approved O-25-04-01 authorizing Mayor signature of the final conveyance quitclaim deed and environmental covenants agreements. The package was transmitted to the USAF on 5 May 2025, with ADEC signatures to follow. Following execution by all parties, the documents will be formally filed with the Alaska Recorder's office, finally conveying this 7-acre property to the City. Site work to make the site usable is anticipated to begin in 2025, but will likely be limited to expanding the western limits to increase the footprint, and some incremental grading/fill work to create a more usable surface.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

A Rough-Order-of-Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate is being prepared to determine the level of funding need to complete development of the remaining acreage in a cost-effective manner. The City has an opportunity to partner with a state agency to perform this project, if there are sufficient funds available to support a portion or all of the work. More to come on this as it develops...

Port Rd. Improvements (ADOT Project cost-shared with City):

*This state STIP project has been postponed to approximately 2030 to avoid conflicting with the heavier truck traffic during the port expansion, and to facilitate a more productive repair following the project.*

**FEMA DR4672 Merbok Recover Projects:**

Cape Nome Jetty Repair:

Contractor equipment/materials are in mobilization, scheduled to arrive in early June 2025. Pre-construction survey will be performed once the project site is setup, with construction to begin after survey is approved. The repairs are expected to be completed by late Aug or early Sept 2025, with final completion set for mid-Nov. The City will have an on-site inspector monitoring the project once the work begins.

Seawall & Causeway Utilities (under bridge) Repairs:

Coordination continues with Public Works, NJUS and the USACE contractor to enable shared use of scaffolding being constructed by the USACE contractor performing the repairs in June 2024.

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*Italics reflects information with no change from last report. Additional information available on request.*