



Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager
From: Joy L. Baker – Port Director *JLB*
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Monthly PD Report/Capital Projects Update – June 2023

Administrative:

Port staff have undergone necessary training and/or refreshing for the 2023 seasonal operations. Vessel operations have begun, with office staff updating customer files, notification preferences, and routine expectations. Field staff are coordinating with Public Works for installation of removable infrastructure, and maintenance, and with users on best practices for operating in-water and onshore to prevent drips and spills, prevent incidents and enhance safety. All field staff are now properly equipped with the required Transportation Worker’s Identification Credential (TWIC) to manage and control secure and restricted areas as part of the Marine Transportation Security Act (MTSA), facilitated by the USCG.

Causeway:

Arctic Deep Draft Port – Nome Modifications Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED):

The comment period for NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Incidental Hazard Authorization (IHA) permit for the project, ended on 1 June 2023. Some comments received, questioned the thoroughness of the Corps’ tribal consultation and notification efforts, one requesting a specific meeting for gathering subsistence input, and ideas on more permit stipulations that will address and protect marine mammals beyond the standard NMFS requirements during construction. Although the Corps and City still anticipate approval of this required permit sometime in August 2023, the current focus is for the Corps/City to continue working with the agency to address concerns raised during the comment period, which are essentially beyond those in which NMFS will provide responses direct to the commenters.

Execution of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) is extended until the IHA permit has been approved by NMFS. In the meantime, the City has received the draft document, and it is currently under review by City Administration and legal. To reiterate, the PPA does in fact reflect a cost-share modification to 90/10% as required by law.

The Corps intends to schedule another meeting in Nome on the project, which may occur in Aug or Sep 2023, but the actual schedule has not yet been determined. Once info is available, the City will share with Nome media and an ad will be placed in the newspaper.

Local Service Facilities (LSF) Design Integration:

The City’s designers have finished addressing Corps reviewer comments on the 95% LSF drawings and specs, but will now take another 2-3 weeks to incorporate construction options assigned by the Corps. Once modified drawings are reviewed by the Corps, the entire project team will move toward 100% completion of design and specs, which will then be compiled into a bid package, presently scheduled to be released in October 2023

Causeway Bridge Repairs and Sediment Under Bridge:

The Corps is still preparing a contract solicitation to be released in the summer of 2023, with work now pushed out to the summer of 2024. Sediment that has accumulated under and west of the bridge is being folded into the new Maintenance Dredging solicitation in Fall 2023 for the 2024-2026 contract.

Arctic Port Reception Facility – Solid Waste Disposal (Incinerator):

New funding opportunities are being evaluated for this project.

Harbor:

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

The City continues to make monthly inquiries on the status of this project, with District reporting they are awaiting direction from Corps HQ on how to proceed.

Port Industrial Pad:

West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

Delays in the USAF's process of conveying the WNTF property to the City continue. Therefore, this issue has, once again, been brought to the attention of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, who share this City's disappointment and frustration in the amount of time that has elapsed since NDAA 2015 passed into law, authorizing conveyance of the property to the City. We hope to see movement in the coming weeks, based on CODEL efforts.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

Dredge spoils from the port expansion and inner harbor project have been given clearance by two ADEC programs (Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites), to be disposed of in the undeveloped 9-acre portion of this property. The spoils will require dewatering before serving as a hardened base layer to the specified fill and surfacing to complete development of the 18-acre parcel.

Dredge spoils currently on site, and excavated from previous Snake River development, are scheduled to be spread by Public Works in June. This will form a base layer in a portion of the adjacent unfilled area on the TBS pad. Material received from the state's ex work on Bering Street last year, will be utilized as needed for surfacing new areas, as well as address depressions in the previously built pad due to subsidence.

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

This state STIP project has been postponed to 2026/27 to avoid road construction conflicting with the heavier truck traffic during the port expansion. There is ongoing discussion regarding maintenance work in 2023.

Italics reflects no change in project information from previous report.

Additional details available upon request.