



Memo

To: Lee Smith – CityManager
From: Joy L. Baker – Project Manager/Port Director *JLB*
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission; Planning Commission
Date: 7/10/2025
Re: Port Director/Project Manager Report – July 2025

Administration:

Vessel call activity evolves daily as cargo, fuel and equipment transshipments, and rock export barges are impacted by weather at both the loading points and delivery destinations. Ship calls have now started blending into the schedule, bringing more vehicle traffic into the mix, and requiring additional coordination for safety. Efforts continue to eliminate unnecessary clutter being left within the laydown and storage areas, with personnel committed to consolidating areas in order to maximize use of the available footprints. Although several areas still need attention, port and public works staff are committed to making improvements in each of the location to ensure the entire property is being fully utilized.

Federal agency funding opportunities continue to be received and flagged for determining eligibility to fund existing port and harbor projects. A few more P3 options have surfaced with potential partners interested in the port expansion, and are being pursued to determine if realistic.

Strategic Development Plan:

PND and Corvus have completed and submitted the final Port of Nome Strategic Development Plan. Port staff are reviewing table of contents and reference links to ensure accuracy before publishing to the website, and advising of it's availability. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of numerous individuals and organizations that attended the multiple meetings necessary to complete this plan, and look forward to using this important tool 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 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 expected in the Aug 2026 timeframe.

There are several funding strategies underway to address LSF cost-share needs for future phases of the project.

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. (Pre-award requirements for this project are similar to those that will now be tied to the USDOT Build award.)

Harbor:

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

The Alaska District continues to recommend a General Investigation (GI) Study. We continue working with the project team on next steps, including the estimated local cost-share and proposed schedule (as well as remedies through the CODEL). Information has been submitted directly to USACE Headquarters regarding the failure to adequately address the concerns of this project in a timely manner, before the feasibility budget was fully expended, and 3-year timeline was exhausted.

Snake River Moorage Facility:

USDOT finally reached out to the City on 9 July 2025 to begin the pre-award process for the USDOT/BUILD award the City received in Jan 2025. These requirements must be completed prior to executing a grant agreement for the \$13.2M award. A meeting will be scheduled with the agency to discuss building the necessary checklist and prepare submittals.

Port Industrial Pad:

West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

The conveyance package, as signed by the Mayor, was transmitted on 5 May 2025 for signatures by USACE and ADEC. Although all parties agreed the documents were in a final state and ready for signature, one of the USAF attorneys is evaluating whether an additional change is needed to the Environmental Covenant document, which now has the process on hold again. Last week, the City and State attorney's both expressed a position that no further changes are needed, but the issue is not yet resolved. More to come...

On a separate note, a contractor for the USAF (AF) was in town on 9 July 2025, and did a site visit with NJUS, Public Works and Port staff regarding boring locations for the ongoing sampling the AF is required to perform. The large quantity of locations was reduced to ensure they did not conflict with buried utility infrastructure. Also, the proposed boring sites for City-owned lots 2 and 3 were put on temporary hold, until the AF can share the long-term plan these sites as there is potential conflict with shore-side development associated with the Snake River Moorage Project. A meeting is planned for the week of 21 July 2025 to discuss in more detail.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

A Rough-Order-of-Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate is still in investigated, with alternatives to perform incremental work being considered throughout the summer season. Funding opportunities continue to be evaluated in an effort to complete development of the remaining acreage in a cost-effective manner. The pad remains in a constant evolving state, as individual user and contractor storage needs are considered and efforts made to maximize the usable surface.

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 has been actively working on the project since the construction template and pre-construction survey were approved on 10/11 June 2025. The project schedule has achieved substantial progress since that time, with completion anticipated by the end of July 2025 – barring any significant weather impacts to the in-water work. Site inspections will follow as soon as construction is complete, with project closeout expected by end of Aug 2025.

Seawall Repairs:

Storm repairs to the east end of the Nome Seawall have been budgeted by FEMA, with Public Works & Port staff currently working to determine the level of assistance that will be required from local contractors to excavate the affected area, along with to haul/place rock to fill voids identified by engineers/surveyors. This work is expected to be completed no later than 30 Sep 2025.

Causeway Road/3 Docks Repairs:

Additional road/dock repairs are anticipated to be performed before freeze-up to replace lost material along the road and all 3 Causeway docks. This will meet the scope of work identified from storm damage, reduce future loss, and improve both the subsurface and surfacing in the busiest traffic areas on the Causeway.

Causeway Utilities (under bridge) Repairs:

Repairs to the under-side bridge infrastructure belonging to the Corps, City, and NJUS are complete, with the federal personnel completing their inspections just before the holiday weekend. Although all utility services were operational while waiting for the repair work, permanent infrastructure is now back in place. We expect FEMA personnel will be performing inspections later in 2025, to ensure all storm repairs have been completed.

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