



Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager
From: Joy L. Baker – Port Director *JLB*
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission
Date: August 14, 2023
Re: Monthly PD Report/Capital Projects Update – Aug 2023

Administrative:

Cruise ship traffic began ramping up in July, and will continue through August and September. Some of the calls include overnight stays, which thins out port staff pretty quickly due to requirements for providing port security on the secure/restricted areas while passenger vessels are at the dock. The Port is thankful that we are fully staffed this season and can position field staff at the gate, without having to close the office during ship calls. Port field staff are also positioned at the Causeway dock headers when fuel deliveries are underway, which, like cruise ships, are also considered Marine Transportation Security Act (MTSA) regulated vessels. Combined with tugs/barges, landing crafts, research and sailing vessels, as well as the entire homeported fleet, it goes without saying

Causeway:

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

The Project Team (PDT) received what is expected to be the final few comments from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the Incidental Hazard Authorization (IHA) permit application that was submitted in Nov 2022. The concerns raised by the commenters primarily center around subsistence access, and are being addressed by the Corps and the City, with responses expected to be provided to NMFS next week.

Design has reached 98% with documents currently under Agency Technical Review (ATR) within the framework of the Corps. Comments are being transmitted to the City designers for review and response, and will be sent back to the Corps for consideration in the final ATR step. Construction solicitation has been moved to 1 Nov 2023, with a deadline for executing the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) set for 30 Sep 2023. Things are moving a little more quickly at this juncture, and will be shared as known.

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 submitted all required drawing and specification files at 95%, and are presently fielding any questions or concerns being raised during the ATR process. Upon completion of this last review, City designers will sign and stamp all project materials for transmission to the Corps and incorporation into the contract solicitation package.

Causeway Bridge Repairs and Sediment Removal:

The Corps has issued an RFQ to Bristol Engineering for conducting repair work needed at the bridge.

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. The delays on this issue have also been submitted to Alaska Delegation staff members for action.

Port Industrial Pad:

West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

The USAF finally returned their review of the City's and ADEC's comments on the quit claim deed and environmental covenants. ADEC has submitted the state's position to the USAF on additional edits needed, with expectations of a call in the next two weeks to discuss next steps.

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 were spread by Public Works in June, which formed 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, were used to provide surfacing to the extent possible, and fill depressions in the existing 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.

FEMA DR4672 Merbok Recover Projects:

Inner Harbor Dredging – South Wall and East Ramp:

The Finance Director and myself continue working with the DMVA state team, along with FEMA reps to provide required documentation to obtain a scope of work and approved funding to award the RFP to dredge the storm sediment from the harbor. Things move slowly, so more to come...

Cape Nome Jetty Repair:

The Finance Director and myself continue working with the DMVA state team, along with FEMA reps to obtain funding approval for the design/engineering work to determine the level of debris cleanup and construction to return the structure to pre-storm condition. A draft scope of work has been approved by FEMA, but it is understood that edits will be made once a draft design and cost-estimate are prepared by Bristol Engineering.

Italics reflects no change in project information from previous report.

Additional details available upon request.