



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: 3/21/2025
Re: Port Director Report/Projects Status Update – Mar 2025

Administration:

Staff have been focused on F26 budget cycle prep, including identifying costs for in-house maintenance and repair projects, including those requiring contractor support. We continue to aggressively pursue collection on past due accounts, with revolving impound rounds moving forward at various stages. This effort is not popular, but we are determined to significantly reduce the unpaid user debt, essential to supporting operations, as well as the necessary maintenance and repairs, improvements, labor and personnel training required to safely and efficiently run the facility.

Strategic Development Plan:

Port staff met with PND and Corvus for to recap Phase B of the Strategic Development Plan, developing a schedule to present updates to the public, facility users, port commission and city/port staff. Phase B will be the focus of a 17 April 2025 Port Commission Work Session, with Phase C presented at the Commission's 15 May 2025 work session. The final report will reflect a solid long-range plan for future port development.

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, was released by the USACE on 28 Feb 2025. Proposals are currently due on 15 April 2025, with contract award anticipated for Aug/Sep 2025, contingent upon receipt of an awardable and eligible bid.

Local Service Facilities (LSF) Inspection Integration:

The City design team stands by to respond to bidder inquiries on the Phase 1A construction solicitation, as directed by USACE. In the meantime, the project team is moving forward to finalize design on Phase 2 (dredging), with a bid package solicitation anticipate to be released in May 2026, and 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. More to come as this moves forward...

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

The USACE finally shared a brief letter (in packet), 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.

Snake River Moorage Facility:

The City awaits action by USDOT/RAISE 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:**

The final conveyance quitclaim deed and environmental covenants package has been received by the City, along with an ordinance drafted by the City attorney, for review and adoption by the Nome Common Council at their 24 March 2025 Regular Meeting. USAF and City signatures will be obtained to fully execute the package, followed by the USAF's action to file them with the Alaska Recorder's office – this will officially convey the 7-acre property.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

Costs are being compiled for pursuing grant funds to complete the development of the remaining 8.5 acres of the 18-acre parcel. Several funding vehicles are accepting applications at this time, and we are hopeful that we will identify one that is aligned with this work. This additional laydown property is critically needed for staging of cargo and equipment, along with stockpiling gravel and rock, needed for the port expansion as well as for exporting to construction projects throughout the region.

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:**

The City is coordinating with the awarded contractor, Duwamish Services, LLC, who are providing submittals and RFI's as directed in the project contract documents. Materials and equipment procurement have begun, with the project schedule in development. Mobilization is anticipated to occur by early June, with final completion planned for 15 Nov 2025. More details will be shared as this project moves forward.

Seawall & Causeway Utilities (under bridge) Repairs:

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