



Memo

To: Lee Smith – CityManager
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/Project Manager Report – June 2025

Administration:

Activity across the facility has picked up significantly in recent weeks with numerous vessels launched and barges arriving with cargo and construction equipment. Laydown space remains at a premium, so staff remain focused on keeping areas cleared of unnecessary items and ensuring pathways are kept clear for access by all users. As of this report date, Public Works and Port staff are in the process of launching the floating docks, with all ladders and fenders installed last week. Small/medium maintenance/repair projects are planned for the season, and will begin soon.

A number of federal agencies have recently issued Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO's). These will be evaluated to determine eligibility of existing port and harbor projects, with applications submitted timely. In the same vein, there are some P3 options on the horizon that are presently being investigated, with hopes of securing partnering funding to assist with port and harbor development.

Strategic Development Plan:

PND and Corvus are preparing what will be considered the final draft of the full Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for review by the Port Commission at their Work Session and Regular Meeting rescheduled for Thursday, 12 June 2025. We are confident this final iteration of the SDP has captured a wide range of input from the commission, public and staff, reflecting a solid, long-range plan for future development of the port and harbor. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of numerous individuals and organizations that attended the multiple meetings necessary to complete this plan. We 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/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 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).

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. (Package presently in transit to ADEC for signature.)

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.

Alaska Marine Lines (AML) Lease – Surfacing Improvements:

In a combined effort of City/Port staff and private sector contractors, the cargo yard leased by AML received a long overdue surfacing upgrade to provide stability to support heavy forklift use. Further the lease was expanded to the south to provide additional space for cargo/equipment, and to incorporate the office and shop cans previously in place along the bank across Port Rd. Industrial traffic will continue to get heavier in the corridor to/from the laydown (TBS) pad and the Causeway, so concentrating all of AML's operations within their leased area was essential.

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 arrived into Nome at the end of May 2025, and have been mobilized to the jetty site. The pre-construction survey has been completed, and files submitted to engineers for review. Once the dredging quantities are calculated and approved, the contractor (Duwamish) will immediately begin the in-water work. The project schedule is still showing completion of the work sometime in Aug 2025, but will be updated as work progresses and any weather impacts occur.

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 2025.