



City of Valdez
March 31st – April 2nd

Monday, March 31st

City of Valdez Meeting with NOAA

Primary Topics

- Weather data collection & maritime equipment
 - National Weather Service funding
 - Marine Bouy Maintenance
- Importance of Port Valdez
- Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program
- Prince William Alaska Fishery Disaster Request
 - Estimated deadline for response 4/29

Next Steps: City of Valdez should monitor any “on the ground” impacts of cuts to NOAA programs (local layoffs, local outreach regarding cuts, etc.) and repairs to the Seal Rocks Buoy. CHCG will monitor any news of cuts to NOAA at a federal level. Should cuts occur that impact Valdez, CHCG will work in conjunction with the City to alert NOAA HQ and the Congressional delegation.

Topic Lead: Aaron Baczuk – Emergency Manager & CHCG

Department of Transportation MARAD – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)

Primary Topics

- Discussed strategic importance of Port Valdez
- Learned nuisances & policy around grant opportunities
 - Can take multiple cycles to be awarded
 - PIDP
 - Planning grants
 - Construction grants
 - BUILD
 - INFRA

Next Steps: City staff to communicate with Director of the Pacific Northwest & Alaska Gateway Office in advance of pursuing federal funding opportunities through MARAD

- First meeting occurred 4/17/25

Topic Lead: Jeremy Talbott – Ports & Harbors Director



Tuesday, April 1st

Department of Transportation – Essential Air Service

Primary Topics

- Thanked Department for support in awarding service to Valdez
- EAS award criteria primarily weighed in two categories
 - Cost of service
 - Community support
- Discuss local benefit from award
 - Increased usage
 - Increased reliability
 - Low cost fares
- EAS funding sources
 - Foreign Overflight Fees
 - Aviation Trust Fund Revenue
- Next contract (2027)

Next Steps: City of Valdez to share any local news clips, press releases, or economic data on EAS, CHCG will work with the City to distribute that information to program rep. City Council should consider a resolution supporting the EAS program and continued funding from the Aviation Trust Fund and overflight fees. Additionally, if the City would like to pursue a Fairbanks route option, CHCG will work with Valdez on a best path forward, keeping Mark apprised of efforts and keep in compliance with EAS rules to ensure the Anchorage route is not impacted.

Topic Lead: Martha Barberio – Economic Development Director

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Primary Topics

- Strategic value of Port Valdez & opportunities to homeport vessels
- Child care
 - Earmark grant & project process
 - Task Force & THREAD grant programs in process
- Housing
 - Discussed local successful projects & partnerships
 - Coast Guard housing opportunities
- Public Safety Communications project appropriation request



- NOAA funding issues
 - Weather service
 - Tsunami Hazard Program
 - National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) reauthorization
 - National Avalanche Center
 - Weather Buoys – Seal Rock
- USCG Cutters
 - Decommissioning 4/29
 - New cutter arrival
- Trip to Valdez 4/17/25 (cancelled for weather)
 - City participated in virtual roundtable

Next Steps: CHCG will continue to work with Senator's office for inclusion of radio tower funding in the FY26 appropriations bill. If the City encounters any issues with federal funding cuts or any other federal issue, those should be conveyed to CHCG which will in turn work with the Senator's Office. CHCG will also work with the City to invite the Senator and her staff to any legislative receptions and the commissioning of the new Cutter.

Topic Leads: NOAA & Hazards- Aaron Baczuk;
Childcare grant- Nathan Duval - Administration
Public Safety Radio request- Nathan Duval & CHCG;
Seal Rock buoy- Councilman Lally
Cutters & press releases- Ana Hinkle - Communications

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Primary Topics

- Coast Guard cutter decommissioning & new cutter arrival
- Housing status / Coast Guard Housing
- Appropriations Request – Radio project
- EAS funding support, expected to be secure
- Continued Coast Guard funding support
- Funding issues for federally funded local programs
 - Tsunami Program
 - Child Advocacy Center
 - National Avalanche Center
 - NOAA & Weather Service & Buoys

Next Steps: If the City encounters any issues with federal funding cuts, Coast Guard, or any other federal issue, those should be conveyed to CHCG which will in turn work with the



Senator's Office. CHCG will also work with the City to invite the Senator and his staff to any legislative receptions and the commissioning of the new Coast Guard Cutter.

Topic Leads:

Coast Guard issues- Nathan Duval - Administration & CHCG;
Invitations to local events – Administration & CHCG
Cutters & press releases- Ana Hinkle - Communications

Wednesday, April 2nd

Meeting with Representative Nick Begich (R-AK)

Primary Topics

- Introduction to Valdez and needs/assets/strategic importance
- Coast Guard cutter decommissioning & new cutter arrival
- Housing status
- Appropriations Request – Radio project
- EAS funding support, expected to be secure
- Continued Coast Guard funding support
- Funding issues for federally funded local programs
 - Tsunami Program
 - Child Advocacy Center
 - National Avalanche Center
 - NOAA & Weather Service & Buoys
- House Coast Guard Subcommittee membership

Next Steps: If the City encounters any issues with federal funding cuts or any other federal issue, those should be conveyed to CHCG which will in turn work with the Congressman's Office. CHCG will also work with the City to invite the Congressman and his staff to any legislative receptions and the commissioning of the new Coast Guard Cutter. CHCG will also follow up with the Congressman's office to establish a working relationship with his staff to assist with any City of Valdez issues moving forward.

Topic Leads:

Relationship building & contacts - CHCG
Coast Guard issues- Nathan Duval - Administration & CHCG;
Invitations to local events – Administration & CHCG
Cutters & press releases- Ana Hinkle - Communications



Staff Director Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Majority

Primary Topics

- Strategic importance of Port Valdez
- Opportunities for additional vessels homeported in Valdez

Next Steps: CHCG will periodically follow up with John as discussions on Coast Guard funding occur. CHCG will also ensure that John is invited to Valdez for the commissioning and the City in general when he is in Alaska.

Topic Leads:

Relationship building & topic updates - CHCG

Port opportunities- Nathan Duval – Administration; Jeremy Talbot- Ports & Harbors Director; & CHCG

Meeting with United States Coast Guard Staff Representatives (Industry Liaison, Housing, Child Development Services, Infrastructure Requirements, & Budget)

Primary Topics

- Cutters
- Future homeporting opportunities
- City investment and improvements in the following areas
 - Housing
 - Childcare
 - Infrastructure
 - Emergency Management
- Coast Guard Housing

Next Steps: CHCG will reach out to get contact information for the housing officer in Kodiak and to convey cutter ceremony information. CHCG will also let Senator Sullivan's office know how the meeting went.

Topic Leads:

General communications – CHCG

Coast Guard Housing – Kate Huber – Community Development Director

Port opportunities- Nathan Duval – Administration; Jeremy Talbot- Ports & Harbors Director; & CHCG