

City of Valdez Legislative Concerns

Flood Control on the Lowe River –

- The braided Lowe River experiences erratic shifts in the riverbed have threatened community subdivisions and infrastructure over the years.
- The City is developing a mitigation plan for the river aimed at encouraging the river to move away from our subdivision by gravel extraction.

Need: Project funding and technical assistance.

Target Federal Agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA

Early Childhood Education and Daycare

- Providing adequate early childhood education and daycare has become a significant problem in Valdez. Resources are limited due to a lack of suitable spaces in Valdez specifically for child care.
- Valdez hosts five different commands of the US Coast Guard and daycare is also a problem for them. An Admiral requested finding solutions to the issue.

Need: Possible funding support for the development of a childcare facility.

Ports and Harbor-

- Long term maintenance, and expansion of the small boat harbor is ongoing. Design work is starting on H & K dock replacement.
- Over time additional upgrades and expansion of the harbor and port are anticipated.

Need: Matching funds to finance the projects.

Target Agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers

Sewer Force Main-

- The aging sewer force main is reaching its end of life and needs replacement.
- A replacement main will also accommodate additional service on the system.

Need: Matching funds to finance the \$20-\$25 million project

Target Agencies: EPA, USDA-NRCS

Secure Rural Schools Program –

- The Secure Rural Schools Program is a significant source of education funding for our forested communities in Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska.

Need: A long-term legislative solution for continued revenue sharing payments to forested communities. Without further action, the last authorized SRS payments will be made to in spring 2021.

Alaska Marine Highway System –

- Our Marine Highway system is down to one functional ferry that provides shuttle service between Ketchikan and Annette Island.
- The lack of a functioning ferry in Prince William Sound has divided our communities (Tatitlek, Whittier and Cordova) and has had especially bad impacts on the City of Cordova.

Need: An increase in funding for the National Ferry Program to \$90 million and provides new flexibility to apply funding to rural barge landing, dock, and waterfront projects.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Housing –

- Housing remains a considerable challenge in rural Alaska. Valdez is actively seeking ways to improve housing opportunities for its residents.

Need: Identify programs for grants or loan subsidies and determine which ones fit specific needs in Valdez.

Postal Services -

- It's a challenge for the post office to find applicants for positions in Valdez and onboarding time for new postal employees can take months, leaving the Valdez post office severely understaffed with reduced hours and services. Any adverse issues with Post Office operations affects the whole community.

Need: Expedited hiring and onboarding to minimize disruption.

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