



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0112, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

North Sawmill Drive Extension. Recommendation to City Council to Fund for 2019.

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Nylund - Interim Director, Community Development

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: \$500,000 est.

Unencumbered Balance: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Funding Source: CIP fund

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a recommendation to City Council in favor of funding the North Sawmill Drive extension to the intersection of Atigun Dr and Salcha Way, for 2019.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In 2002 the City of Valdez did considerable improvements to the Mineral Creek Loop water system, and this included the addition of a 12" water main within the platted right-of-way that connects N. Sawmill Dr. to the intersection of Salcha Way and Atigun Dr. The northern most portion of the N. Sawmill right of way was grubbed and cleared as part of this infrastructure expansion. This allowed traffic to utilize this unofficial roadway, to the extent that the city has had to create and maintain a gravel berm to block traffic from using it.

City administration submitted a Capital Improvement Project Request form in 2002 (attached) and the project was not funded by the City Council. In 2003 the residents and neighbors of Valdez Mobile Home Park (VMHP) petitioned the City of Valdez for N. Sawmill Dr to be extended to the intersection of Atigun Rd. and Salcha Way. This petition requested that the project be funded for 2014, as the project was proposed for 2012 and 2013 as well, but the City Council decided not to fund it. The petition had 116 signatures (attached).

This project was picked up again in earnest in 2010. A traffic analysis was conducted (attached), and the project was 90% designed, including an expansion of the sanitary sewer system (see attachment). The construction was not funded and the design package remains on the shelf today.

In 2017 the City of Valdez Community Development Department sent a courtesy letter to VMHP regarding two unpermitted driveways that have developed on to the unimproved right of way of N. Sawmill Dr. (see attachment). These unpermitted driveways were in violation of Chapter 12 of Valdez Municipal Code, which states the following:

12.04.030 Highways or driveways serving more than one parcel of land.

- A. No person shall construct or permit to be constructed within the city any highway or driveway arranged or planned to serve more than one parcel of land used for residential purposes, unless a permit shall first be obtained from the city engineer.
- B. No such permit shall be issued until the plans and specifications for such highway or driveway shall be approved by the city engineer as to specifications, and by the planning commission as to location, width and general plan. (Prior code § 23-3)

This project is again gaining public interest, and there have been multiple requests to bring it back and recommend that City Council fund this project for 2019. Allen Minish brought it before the Planning and Zoning Commission under public business from the floor on December 13th, 2017, and requested that it be revived and reconsidered. Mr. Minish also submitted a letter of support for this project (attached). On March 1st, 2018, City Administration met with the managers of VMHP, Deanna and Allen Cox, and they requested the same as Mr. Minish. Administration requested that it be added to the agenda for the next P&Z commission meeting, which would be March 14th.

This project is consistent with the City Of Valdez's Comprehensive Plan

Goal - Transportation: Provide for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation systems to, from, and within the community.

Objective - Provide alternative access routes for safety and emergency preparedness needs.

Objective - Provide for motorist safety by limiting access points along major streets and highways.

Goal - Community Facilities and Services: Provide for the maximum range of community services and facilities in appropriate locations consistent with the community's desire and ability to fund these.

Objective - Maximize the community's investments in existing community facilities.

This project has been included on the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) wish list for 2019 and beyond, that Community Development submitted to the Capital Facilities department on February 15th, 2018. In order to be funded and completed, this project is subject to the CIP budget approval process for 2019, which will be conducted by the Valdez City Council in autumn of 2018.