



**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes  
Russian Jack Community Council  
March 10, 2021**

**Finance/Budget Subcommittees**

- Labor- Near Closeout
- Health and Social Services – Still meeting twice a week reviewing the largest department budget. Medicaid funding is intact for 2022 but there are concerns with 2023 funding. There are also concerns from the Alaska Food Coalition regarding cuts to the Division of Public Assistance staffing which is interfering with SNAP benefits.
- Commerce, Community and Economic Development - Near Closeout but I have concerns with cuts to Alaska Legal Services. The Agency received a one-time grant for \$150,000 specifically for Bethel but its funding is cut over \$300,000 and I'm working on getting that reinstated. The services this Agency provides to our most vulnerable citizens is critical.

**Zoom Constituent Meetings**

No one other than legislators, staff and the media are allowed in the Capitol, but we are having many Zoom meetings with constituents which is working out great. If you are interested in meeting with me while in Juneau, please contact Delaney in my office and she will schedule a Zoom meeting.

**March is Women's History Month**

- Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, I gave a floor speech recognizing Women's History Month. You can see and hear the speech on Gavel to Gavel.



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The theme for 2021 is: A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we are all responsible for our own thoughts and actions-all day, every day.”

**Committee Hearing**

- Senate Bill 7, “An act requiring the Department of Public Safety to publish certain policies and procedures on the department’s internet website” is scheduled to be heard in the State Affairs Committee on Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. You can visit the AKleg.gov website or reach out to the Anchorage LIO Office at 269-0111 to receive information on testifying.

**Capital Projects**

- If there are any projects that the community council would like us to submit for entry into CAPSIS (Capital Project Submission & Information System), please let us. We have until the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**How to Stay Informed**

- During the session, you can tune into the Capitol happenings by watching Gavel to Gavel, my Senator Elvi Facebook and Twitter pages and, of course, by reviewing my monthly newsletters.

If you are not receiving my monthly newsletter, please let us know.

Session: 907-465-4930 // Email: [Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov](mailto:Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov) or [Besse.Odom@akleg.gov](mailto:Besse.Odom@akleg.gov)



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RJCC COUNCIL RESOLUTION

IN OPPOSITION TO THE DELCARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council is a private, not-for-profit, voluntary, self-governing association composed of residents, property owners, business owners, and representatives from the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council neighborhood designated by the Anchorage Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council works alongside other community councils; and

WHEREAS, other Community Councils are considering a resolution substantially the same as this resolution; and

WHEREAS, AR 2020-398(S), dated November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 extended the Declaration of Emergency for the 6<sup>th</sup> time granting the Mayor's Office "Special powers during a state of public health emergency" A.M.C. 3.80.065.

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office has yet to provide a large enough burden of proof to show that the request for "Special powers during a state of public health emergency" qualifies as a Public Health Emergency as outlined in A.M.C. 3.80.030 and as stated:

Public health emergency means an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that:

1. Has been identified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services or Anchorage Health Department to be caused by any of the following:
  - a. The appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin; or
  - b. Bioterrorism, defined as the intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs that can sicken or kill people, livestock, or crops; and
2. Poses a high probability of any of the following harms, provided that one or more persons located within the municipality are among the affected population:
  - a. A large number of deaths in the affected population;
  - b. A large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population; or
  - c. Widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people in the affected population.

WHEREAS, there has been no actual statistical or scientific evidence to prove that either a large number of deaths have occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage due to COVID-19, nor that COVID-19's morbidity and mortality rates justify the reasoning that a large number of death could occur due to

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COVID-19. The requirement of 2(a) as outlined in A.M.C. 3.80.030 for a Public Health Emergency is not met; and

WHEREAS, there has been no actual statistical or scientific evidence to prove that either a large number of serious or long-term disabilities have occurred or will occur in the Municipality of Anchorage. Further, there is no evidence to indicate that serious or long-term disabilities will affect a large number of the population who contracts COVID-19. The CDC has stated that most people who contract COVID-19 will recover fully.<sup>1</sup> The requirement of 2(b) as outlined in A.M.C. 3.80.030 for a Public Health Emergency is not met; and

WHEREAS, since there have not been a large number of deaths in the Municipality of Anchorage; the morbidity and mortality rates of COVID-19 indicate that it will not cause a large number of deaths in the Municipality of Anchorage; and COVID-19 does not pose the threat of serious or long-term disabilities in a large number of the individual who contract it, it can be deduced that even if wide spread exposure to the infectious agent known as COVID-19, would not pose a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people in the affected population. The requirement of 2(c) as outlined in A.M.C. 3.80.030 for a Public Health Emergency is not met;

WHEREAS, the 2 part requirement as outlined in A.M.C. 3.80.030 for a Public Health Emergency are not met due to the fact that none of the conditions in section 2(a)-(c) have been met;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council requests the Assembly of the Municipality of Anchorage act to immediately declare that an emergency no longer exists and as pursuant to AMC section 3.80.080, the Assembly may terminate the emergency proclamation at any time;

PASSED AND APPROVED by the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council with a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Council

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects.html>



# Russian Jack Community Council Capital Improvement List for 2021

\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\* will be reviewing and finalizing at March 10 RJCC Meeting

## Road and Pedestrian Improvements

### Boniface Pkwy Pedestrian Improvements - DeBarr Rd to 22nd Ave (10-22)

Cost: \$3,700,000

Funds on Hand: \$240,000

Additional funds required: \$3,460,000

Need: As identified in the Pedestrian Plan, pedestrian facilities are missing on Boniface Parkway between DeBarr Road and Northern Lights Boulevard.

Project scope: This project is exploring alternatives for pedestrian facilities on Boniface Parkway between DeBarr Road and 22nd Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Project Status: Project is on a funding hold. Design Study Memo has been completed. State grant funding required since the project is in a state-owned right-of-way.

### Northern Lights Blvd at Bragaw St Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Cost: \$450,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$450,000

Need: This is a busy pedestrian crossing used by East High students. This project is included in the Anchorage Pedestrian Plan. This project is a high priority for the Airport Heights Community Council.

Project scope: Construct pedestrian friendly crossing signals and improve crosswalk visibility.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration since it is included in the Anchorage Pedestrian Plan.

### Rehabilitate roads in the area of 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenues between Boniface Parkway and Glacier Street.

Cost:

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required:

Need: deteriorating road conditions and no storm drain system creating potholes, cracked pavement, pooling of water and general overall bad road conditions.

Project scope: Install the approved storm drain system for the area bounded by 22<sup>nd</sup> and Northern Lights Boulevard, Glacier Street and Wesleyan Drive to prevent flooding of adjacent properties.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled

### **Pine St/McCarrey St Surface Rehab - Mountain View Drive to DeBarr Road**

Cost: \$3,200,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$3,200,000

Need: Pavement is deteriorating and rehabilitation will be required. Some segments of this road rated a Condition E in the 2014 GASB survey, but most were C and D. Project scope: This project will overlay or replace pavement on this collector street. ADA upgrades, curb and sidewalk repair, and traffic calming may also be included.

Project Status:

### **Wonder Park Elementary School Area Street Lighting**

Cost: \$150,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$150,000

Need: There is a gap in the street lighting along this heavily used pedestrian corridor that serves Wonder Park Elementary School. Project scope: Install five lights on E 4th Avenue adjacent to Wonder Park Elementary School.

Project Status: The project has not started. Bond funding is proposed.

### **Bragaw St at Penland Pkwy Traffic Safety Crossing**

Cost: \$150,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$150,000

Need: This intersection serves as the primary pedestrian access between the high-density residential area to the east and the commercial district to the west. This project is included in the Anchorage Pedestrian Plan.

Project scope: This project will install new pedestrian safety crossing signals and improve crosswalk visibility.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

### ARDSA Alley Paving

Cost: \$300,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$300,000

Need: There are over 300 unpaved alleys in ARDSA. Unpaved alleys are a nuisance for residents and businesses. Dusty alleys negatively impact the air quality over the Municipality.

Project scope: This program will systematically pave all remaining unpaved alleys in ARDSA.

Project Status: This is an annual program to pave 10-12 alleys each summer in the Anchorage Roads and Drainage Service Area (ARDSA).

### 6th Ave at Boniface Pkwy Separated east and west-bound left turn lane

Cost: \$2,500,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$2,500,000

Need: Interest has been expressed in adding separated turn lanes to allow more traffic to move through the intersection in the same amount of green time.

Project scope: This project will install separated left turn lanes.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for evaluation and prioritization and also forwarded for funding consideration through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).



### Boniface Pkwy Access Management - Tudor Rd to Glenn Hwy

Cost: \$20,000,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$20,000,000

Need: The MTP identifies this as a future expressway that could be reconfigured to focus on moving traffic north and south. No studies have been completed.

Project scope: Improvements would focus on limiting access to improve traffic moving capacity.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled. This project is included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and is a state owned facility. Prioritization and funding would be through the State of Alaska.

### Pedestrian and bicycle access from Pine St to Russian Jack Springs Park

Cost: unknown

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required:

Need: Community has identified this project and area as a need to be focused on.

Project scope: Improvements would focus on creating better access to improve safety.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled.

### Intersection (the T) of San Roberto and Lane - Pedestrian and Safety Upgrades

Cost: unknown

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required:

Need: Community has identified this project as a high need due to the number of children crossing in this area. Safety upgrades need to be made.

Project scope: Improvements would focus on creating better access to improve safety.

## Williwaw Elementary Pedestrian and Safety Upgrades



Cost: unknown  
Funds on Hand: \$0  
Additional funds required:

Need: Community has identified this project and area as a need to be focused on.

Project scope: Improvements would focus on creating better access to improve safety. Improve the lighting along Hoyt Street between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and San Ernesto / San Antonio for Williwaw Elementary School student traffic and all walkways to Wonder Park Elementary School, including from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and from Fireoved and Camelot to the school. Look at ways to hinder bicycles from entering 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue at unsafe speeds.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled.

## Traffic Calming



Cost: unknown  
Funds on Hand: \$0  
Additional funds required:

Need: Community has identified numerous traffic calming measures that need to be done to keep communities safe by slowing down vehicles in our neighborhoods and around schools

Project scope: Look at different traffic calming measures including speed humps, flashing lights and other potential methods that will slow cars down. Some of the community projects identified include, but are not limited to: Traffic calming for Pine Street between Debarr Road and Reka Drive, Traffic calming for the Russian Jack community area, especially along the segments of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues adjacent to Bragaw Street, including fixed radar speed signs.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled.

## Parks and Recreation

### Russian Jack Springs Park



Cost: \$2,000,000  
Funds on Hand: \$0  
Additional funds required: \$2,000,000

Need: The Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan Committee has been meeting and is in the final stages of finalizing the plan. Some of the major priorities identified include updating and maintaining many of the assets in the park including repaving the trails, lighting, updating the Chalet, new ground surface for the Polar Bear Park, maintaining bike trails, and more.

Project scope: Community identified priorities. Paved trail and bridge renovation. Update and repave access to park on East 20th, and review other entrances to the park that need updating and increased lighting.

Project Status: Park Maintenance performs monthly safety inspections and repairs the park assets as necessary.

### San Antonio Park

Cost: \$100,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$100,000

Need: San Antonio Park is an important playground for the Russian Jack neighborhood. The playground and safety surfacing need to be compliant with current industry-wide safety standards.

Project scope: Funds will be used to repair the playground and safety surfacing and fix neighborhood park amenities.

Project Status: Park Maintenance performs monthly safety inspections and repairs the park assets as necessary.

### Williwaw Park

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Community residents have identified the need for water supply at the park.

Project Scope: Install a permanent water supply to Williwaw Park for irrigation of playing fields, playground grass-lands, and future public amenities.

Project Status: No work scheduled at this time.



## Community Garden Site Selection and Design and Management Standards.

Cost: \$50,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$50,000

Need: The public demand for plots in MOA Community Gardens far exceeds the current availability. New community gardens have been identified in a number of newly completed park master plans. Funding will be used to develop new community gardens.

Project scope: Identify appropriate parks in the Anchorage Bowl where community garden development is appropriate. Create design and management guidelines to assist the department in building and maintaining community gardens.

Project Status: The department currently manages community gardens at The Gardens @ Bragaw, C Street Gardens, Fairview Lions and McPhee Gardens

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