



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

Happy November Everyone!

- ❖ The 4th Special Session ended on November 2nd and it's unfortunate that we didn't get much done after gaveling in on October 4th. As you may remember from my previous newsletter, the Governor called legislators back into a special session to discuss a plethora of items with the main item being a supplemental PFD. There were several bills introduced from both the Senate and House to address new revenue, constitutionally protecting the PFD, and more. You can find additional information at www.akleg.gov. Special Sessions are expensive especially when nothing gets done so I was pleased to hear that the Governor said he will not call another special session.
- ❖ Outside of Juneau, plenty is happening here in Anchorage. I'm busy responding to emails, attending community council meetings, and more. I was honored to be selected to attend the Council of State Governments West's legislative training in September and was also selected to attend the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute's (LEHI) training on energy issues to include climate change. LEHI held a graduation ceremony for 28 West Coast legislators and the event was held at a venue where you could see the Capitol from the balcony. It was inspiring to see our Capitol from that view. We were also given actual graduation certificates from the University of Idaho. Learning is forever, and I'm honored to be selected to participate in providing solutions that will not only benefit me but also my constituents and the people of Alaska.
- ❖ Anchorage midtown voters voted to retain Assemblywoman Meg Zaletel who represents a portion of my Senate District. She is doing an amazing job on behalf of "our" constituents, and I'm so pleased the people have recognized and appreciated her efforts. I'd also like to thank the entirety of our Assembly for their efforts to keep our community safe.



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Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

On Friday, November 5th, The U.S. House passed an enormous infrastructure bill, totaling \$1.5 trillion. The infrastructure bill will bring billions to Alaska for roads, ports and broadband. For Alaska, this milestone reflects how important the bill will impact the 49th State. Here is what Alaska can expect:

- **\$3.5 billion in federal highway funding for Alaska over five years, to build new roads and highways, and rebuild and maintain existing ones.**
- **\$225 million goes to Alaska to address more than 140 bridges considered to be “structurally deficient.”**
- **\$1 billion over five years for essential ferry service to rural Alaska communities.**
- **\$73 million to build new ferries for Alaska.**
- **More than \$180 million over 5 years will support water and wastewater projects in Alaska through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.**
- **\$75 million for the Denali Commission to build out rural infrastructure in Alaska.**

In The Coming Months

As we quickly approach the next legislative session which begins on January 18th, you can expect more activity in the Legislature especially as legislators begin to pre-file bills. In my December newsletter, I will be sharing my list of pre-filed bills.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving

Always representing your interests!

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RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2021-004 DRAFT

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL REQUESTING FUNDS FOR
RUSSIAN JACK SPRINGS PARK SAFETY AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 2022 CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOND**

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council ("RJCC") is an organization representing the interests of the residents of the Russian Jack neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, a function of all community councils in municipal code is to "Advise the assembly of the community council's annual priority list of capital improvement projects by filing with the municipal clerk within the timeframe established by the administration, a copy of the list as submitted to the administration" (2.40.050 Functions); and

WHEREAS, the RJCC adopted its Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priority list in for 2022 including the "Russian Jack Springs Park" project; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Springs Park on RJCC's CIP priority list for is estimated at \$2,000,000 for implementing the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage's 2021 Capital Improvement Budget for Parks & Recreation for 2021-2026 includes funding for Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements for \$500,000 in the 2022 Bond package with additional funding in 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the "Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements" is detailed to fund "implementation of master plan priorities including safety improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access improvements, facility upgrades, trail rehabilitation, and new wayfinding and signage including indigenous place names for the park's trail system;" and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has worked closely with the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan Committee and fully support and approves their plan; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has heard from many neighbors and community members across the city that Russian Jack Springs Park is a destination to walk, bike, ski, run, sled, and many other activities with families; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has talked at length about the need to update our trails and existing infrastructure to ensure the community can be safe while enjoying our beloved park; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Springs Park is a destination that serves all Anchorage residents and is a highly used and loved park; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage removed this funding in the 2022 Capital Improvement Budget for Parks & Recreation for 2022-2027 removed bond funding for this project in 2022, instead shifting funding into 2023, 2024, and 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the RJCC, urges the Municipality of Anchorage administration and Anchorage Assembly to include at least \$500,000 in the 2022 Bond package for the Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements project.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Russian Jack Community Council on 10 day of November 2021.

FOR 9, AGAINST 0, ABSTAIN 0.

Russian Jack Community Council President

11-10-2021
Date

Russian Jack Community Council Capital Improvement List Draft for 2022

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 20th and 24th Avenues between Boniface Parkway and Glacier Street.

Cost: \$3,500,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$3,500,000

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 22nd 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: This project has not started. No work is underway and no funding is proposed in the six-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

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

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

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.

School Pedestrian and Safety Upgrades

Cost: \$500,000 (Full cost for improvements unknown)
Funds on Hand: \$0

Need: Community has identified all schools in the Russian Jack Community Council area need to focus on pedestrian and safety upgrades.

Project scope: Improvements would focus on creating better access to improve safety and ensuring Safe Routes to Schools which have been identified by the Municipality of Anchorage manual. All schools should be evaluated for improved lighting and pedestrian improvements to ensure all children have safe walking routes to school. Community has identified the following specific areas of improvements, but not limited to, improve the lighting along Hoyt Street between 6th Avenue and San Ernesto / San Antonio for Williwaw Elementary School student traffic and all walkways to Wonder Park Elementary School, including from 6th Avenue to 4th Avenue and from Fireweed and Camelot to the school. Look at ways to hinder bicycles from entering 6th Avenue at unsafe speeds.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled.

Traffic Calming

Cost: \$500,000 (total cost unknown)
Funds on Hand: \$0

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 8th and 9th 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 Upgrades

Cost:\$150,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional Funds Required:\$150,000

Need: Community residents have identified the need to upgrade and maintain the amenities at Williwaw Park, and the need for water supply at the park.

Project Scope: Upgrade and maintain current amenities. Review project to 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 Gardens for Russian Jack Community

Cost: \$150,000

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional funds required: \$150,000

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 in Russian Jack area.

Project scope: Identify appropriate site selection for community gardens in the Russian Jack Community Council area where development is appropriate. These funds will help to create design and management guidelines to assist the parks department in building and maintaining community gardens.

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