

RESOLUTION NO. #30-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING (\$14,049,988) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2022 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the Whittier City Council recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska where constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, consequently, when local municipal harbor masters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation in 2006, supported by the City of Whittier, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

WHEREAS, the Whittier City Council, is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the City of Cordova, City and Borough of Sitka, City and Borough of Juneau, City of Seward, and City of Sand Point have offered to contribute \$14,049,988 in local match funding for FY2022 towards five harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, during the last ten years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, municipal harbors have submitted \$58 million in capital project match requests, representing over \$116 million in shovel-ready capital projects that have received only \$16.6 million in funding through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program with zero funding in FY21.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whittier City Council urges full funding in the amount of \$14,049,988 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2022 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

Passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of Whittier, Alaska, on this 23rd day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:


Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk


Dave Dickason, Mayor

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 1
Abstain: 0