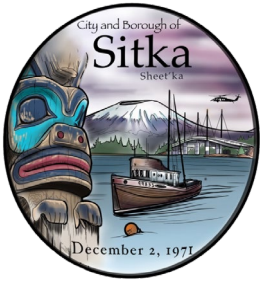


Should this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda the following motion is suggested:

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2022-02 on first and final reading submitting City and Borough of Sitka FY 2023 State Legislative Priorities to State of Alaska and 2022 Legislature.



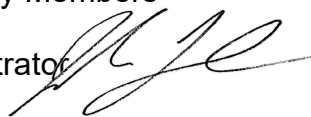
City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

A Coast Guard City

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Melissa Henshaw, Public and Government Relations Director

Date: January 13, 2022

Subject: Fiscal Year 2023 CBS Legislative Priorities

Background

Enclosed are the draft Fiscal Year 2023 CBS Legislative Priorities for Assembly review. Most of these requests for state initiatives are from previous years and centered around community priorities. As in the past, the approach is streamlined as it is recommended to have a one-page handout to help keep information quickly available for the Alaska Legislature.

In addition, a full report and necessary engineering attachments will be submitted into the Alaska Division of Legislative Finance Capital Projects database (CAPSIS). The Legislative Priority initiatives and project will be the primary focus of lobbying meetings between the Mayor, Municipal Administrator, the Public and Government Relations Director and various federal and state officials. The adopted Legislative Priorities will also complement our future grant applications.

The following requests, in no particular order, are:

- Funding to support Sitka's Working Waterfront: a project that consists of a new marine haul out and renovation of the city cold storage sea wall
- Funding for Green Lake hydro generation plan renovation
- Continued State support for Sitka Seaplane Base (SPB)
- Funding for the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport Terminal Improvements Project
- Financial assistance for a new multi-purpose building to house the Police Department and jail
- Support to conduct a traffic study, planning efforts, and funding of projects for tourism
- Support and funding for deferred maintenance and infrastructure
- Federal support for shore and utility infrastructure upgrades on Japonski Island necessary for the pending arrival of a Coast guard Fast Response Cutter and the expansion of Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) to a regional healthcare hub
- Support for State expansion of Alaska Land and Mobile Radio Coverage

- Support for a right-sized and sustainable Alaska Marine Highway System

The goal is to focus on projects and state initiatives that create long-term stability and gives direction as we develop future budgets and pursue grant funding.

Recommendation

Approve resolution 2022-02 submitting City and Borough of Sitka FY 2023 State Legislative Priorities to the State of Alaska and 2022 Legislature.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUBMITTING CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
FY 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
TO STATE OF ALASKA AND 2022 LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka advocates cooperating and sharing resources with the State of Alaska to maximize public infrastructure and services for the citizens of Alaska in the most efficient, cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the attached City and Borough of Sitka FY 2023 Legislative Requests will enable the municipality and State of Alaska to continue to cooperate to make our communities and State more sustainable; and

WHEREAS, City and Borough of Sitka continues to support cooperation between cities and State of Alaska to achieve our common goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, adopts the attached FY 2023 City and Borough of Sitka State Legislative Priorities and urges the Alaska State Legislature to support them to the maximum extent possible.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 25th day of January 2022.

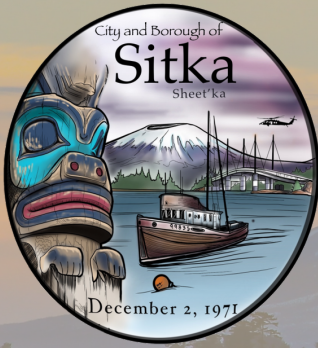
Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1/25/22 first and final reading

Sponsor: Administrator



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

FY 2023^{CBS}

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Funding to support Sitka's Working Waterfront

a project that consists of a new marine haul out and renovation of the city cold storage sea wall

Both projects are vital to Sitka commerce and our commercial fishing fleet. Sitka's only vessel haul out is privately owned and closure is imminent. Sitka is seeking development of a haul out at its Industrial Park. The estimated cost is \$10 million.

The bulkhead wall that supports our community cold storage is failing and must be renovated. The estimated cost is \$12 million.

Funding for completion of Green Lake hydro generation plant renovation

Green Lake hydro generation plant is nearly 40 years old and is in dire need of major rehabilitation. The Green Lake plant is the backbone of Sitka's electric service, providing half of Sitka's electrical demand. Phase 1 has been completed with an USDA loan. Phase 2 and 3 have an estimated project cost of \$10 million.

Funding for the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport Terminal Improvements Project

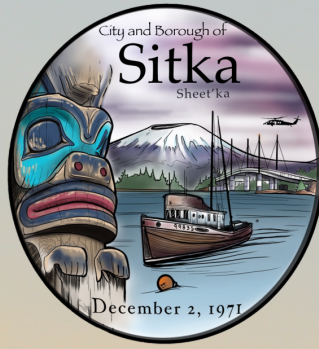
Sitka is currently on the FAA & ADOT Airport Improvement Program priority list to receive \$7 million and is requesting from TSA \$3.3 million for baggage screening. However, even with those possible funding streams, as well as a \$4 million revenue bond, there is still a shortfall of \$5.4 million. The estimated total project cost is \$20 million.

Continued State support for the Sitka Seaplane Base (SPB)

Sitka's only seaplane facility has been operating at its current site for over 65 years and is at the end of its useful life. The timber floats are weathered, have lost their preservative treatment, and are losing their floatation capability. In January 2016, the facility was temporarily closed because portions of superstructure collapsed, damaging the transient float. CBS expended approximately \$165,000 to repair and reopen the facility with a 5-to-10-year life expectancy in 2016. Sitka has completed an extensive siting study and environmental documentation in support of a newly constructed facility sited on State land. CBS asks for continued support from the State for the necessary uplands and tidelands property conveyance consisting of approximately 2-acres of DEED uplands and 30-acres of submerged State tidelands. The estimated project cost is approximately \$20 million. CBS anticipates receiving between 93.75% to 100% majority funding through the FAA Airport Improvement Program due to the significant safety and operational deficiency associated with the current base location and condition.

Financial assistance for a new multi-purpose building to house the Police Department and jail

The SPD and jail are currently housed within approximately 6,400 square feet of the City/State Building. The ~20,000 square foot building was constructed between 1974 and 1976 in partnership with the State. CBS owns a portion of the land the building is located on, and jointly owns the building with the State. The 45-year-old facility does not meet current needs and functions of the SPD. Estimated costs for a new police department and jail are \$20 million to construct on one of two possible sites.



Support to conduct a traffic study, planning efforts, and funding of projects for tourism

CBS requests support from ADOT to conduct a system-wide traffic study in the summer of 2022, planning efforts, and funding of projects to maintain a high level of service and safety to address the nearly twice historical high of visitors. Assessment needs include bicycle and pedestrian safety on State roads in and to the downtown core and vehicle traffic demand growth due to increased tourism.

Support and funding for deferred maintenance and infrastructure

CBS requests State of Alaska funding for CBS infrastructure that is at or near the end of its useful life. A substantial increase in visitors, coupled with SEARHC and USCG expansions, will strain our aging utilities and public use infrastructure (water, sewer, streets, drainage, and parks).

Support for State expansion of Alaska Land and Mobile Radio Coverage

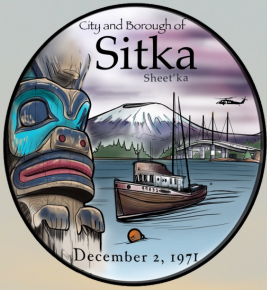
CBS requests the State of Alaska to fund an Alaska Land and Mobile Radio expansion for coverage in Sitka. Currently the system only covers downtown Sitka. A Mud Bay repeater site is needed to share a single, standards-based, Land and Mobile Radio infrastructure to facilitate on-demand and in-real-time, secure, interoperable communications between and among federal, state, and local government agencies for day-to-day operations, mutual aid, emergency/medical response, and joint Task Force missions and roles.

Federal support for shore and utility infrastructure upgrades on Japonski Island necessary for the pending arrival of a Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter and the expansion of Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) to a regional healthcare hub

Both SEARHC and USCG expansions could bring a combined 500+ additional citizens to Sitka. Buildings will be constructed on the SEARHC campus and shore infrastructure improvements will be required at the USCG facility. These expansions will place a drastically increased demand on our CBS utilities infrastructure, which will require significant upgrades. The expansion will also burden our already strained housing and childcare capacity. In Sitka, there is currently only one childcare spot for every 3.5 children under the age of 5.5. To meet our expanding workforce needs, Sitka would need to have one space available for every two children.

Support for a right-sized and sustainable Alaska Marine Highway System

The Alaska Marine Highway system is a critical component of Sitka's transportation system and its link to the rest of the state is critical to Sitka's economy. The drastic reduction of State ferry service to Sitka has caused massive economic and personal dislocations across the Southeast Alaska region.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

CBS

FY 2023 UNFUNDED MANDATE LIST

Support for maintaining the EPA's 301(h) status or fund the mandate

CBS requests the State of Alaska to support maintaining the EPA's 301(h) status. All Southeast communities 301(h) facilities are unable to meet Alaska Water Quality Standards with their current plant. If the state is unable to support the status, CBS requests funds for the infrastructure needed to meet the mandate.

Continued State reimbursement of school bond debt at 70% as originally agreed to between Alaska and its local governments

Sitka's schools were renovated using State bond funds with the expectation that the State would continue to live up to its obligation as a financial partner. Without agreed upon reimbursement, Sitka's sales tax, which funds the 30% share of school bond debt is insufficient to cover debt service.

Support for State Services at the CBS Jail Facilities

The CBS requests the State fund the Community Jail Contract at an appropriate level which was previously funded at \$695K that has decreased to \$391K. By law, the State is responsible for caring for persons charged under State law; 89% of Sitka's inmates fall into this category. Sitka's contract is not sufficient to sustain jail operations.

Continued support for the State's Community Assistance Program

CBS requests the State of Alaska fully fund the Community Assistance Program to develop a long-term funding source on which municipalities can rely and to offset the costs of unfunded mandates such as State required property tax exemptions. Prolonged budget level uncertainties are causing severe difficulties for Sitka and other local governments.

Stable and predictable funding of school systems

Sitka supports its school system to the maximum allowed by State law. The CBS Assembly allocates all property tax revenue plus some of the sales tax to fund the school district. As school costs increase each year, yet state funding remains stagnant, the burden increasingly falls on the CBS.

Support for the Municipal Harbor Matching Grant program

CBS requests the State of Alaska fully fund the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2023 State Capital Budget to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity for coastal communities. Municipalities have committed significant match for projects of local importance.

