



City and Borough of Sitka

FIRE DEPARTMENT

209 LAKE ST. • SITKA, ALASKA • 99835

907-747-3233

April 15th, 2016

To: Mayor Mim McConnell and Assembly Members

Via: City Administrator, Mark Gorman

Subject: Resolution of support for MAP-21 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant for the Cross Trail multimodal pathway (Cross TMP) Phase 6 construction.

Lynne Brandon, Executive Director, Sitka Trail Works has asked for supporting a grant application to the Federal Lands Access Program, Phase 6 construction. As the Emergency Manager and Fire Chief for the City and Borough of Sitka, and the Incident Commander to the City and Borough Disaster Declaration slide incident of August 18th, 2015, we are both absolutely in support of this resolution request.

In my previous letter dated January 11th, 2013, (see attached copy), all of the bulleted items that I addressed still hold true to this date and for the future. On August 18th, 2015 the newly constructed Cross Trail was a life saver. Kramer Avenue was cut completely off by two slides on either end of the road. The only motorized access for the initial 24 hours was by four wheeler ATV's utilizing the cross trail. This access route into the disaster area was in constant use for the next 9 days. Emergency Services personnel gained access in and out of the area via the cross trail access from Cascade Creek Road to Kramer Avenue. Throughout the incident, a patient experiencing a cardiac event was also transported to a waiting ambulance utilizing the Cross Trail route.

The Cross Trail provided a fast and safe access route during the August 18th, 2015 City and Borough of Sitka disaster declaration for Emergency Services personnel and Law Enforcement personnel as well as the over 600 volunteers who participated in the recovery of three deceased members of this community.

As I mentioned in my letter of January 11th, 2013, “in the event of a major disaster, this trail system will save many lives”. The City and Borough of Sitka experienced a major disaster and the Cross Trail proved to be invaluable. Please pass a Resolution of Support for the Phase 6 construction for the FLAP grant. There is no doubt or question how necessary this Cross Trail is to the City and Borough of Sitka.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" being more prominent than the last name "Miller".

Dave Miller, Fire Chief
City and Borough of Sitka, Emergency Manager

Cc: Lynne Brandon, Executive Director, Sitka Trail Works
Michael Harmon, Public Works Director
Jay Sweeney, Finance Director



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907-747-3233

January 11th, 2013

To: Mayor Mim McConnell and Assembly Members
Via: City Administrator, Jim Dinley

Subject: Resolution of support for a grant application to the Federal Lands Access Grant Program.

Deborah Lyons, Executive Director of Sitka Trail Works has asked for support from an emergency management stand point for a Resolution of support for a grant application to the Federal Lands Access Grant Program. As the Emergency Manager and Fire Chief for the City and Borough of Sitka, I am absolutely in support of this resolution request. I understand that the City and Borough of Sitka Public Works is submitting the grant with the help of Sitka Trail Works in the development and improvement of the Cross Trail.

What Deborah and the members of the Sitka Trail Works board and organization have accomplished in the development and improvement of the Cross Trail from Sitka High School to Harbor Mountain Road could potentially saved the lives of thousands of residents in the City and Borough of Sitka in the event of a major disaster.

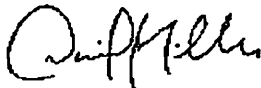
- No longer do residents along Halibut Point Road have to drive to Sitka High School. Instead, they can use any road from Granite Creek to Cascade Creek to gain high ground in their private vehicles. In the event of an actual tsunami, they can easily get to Keet Gooshi Heen or the High School by utilizing the cross trail.
- If the residents along Halibut Point Road begin to utilize the cross trail for emergency access, this helps to relieve the traffic jam problem in getting to the designated shelters along Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road.
- Emergency personnel and ATV's can now safely mobilize equipment and conduct rescues to residents by utilizing the entire length of the Cross trail to access the main road systems of Halibut Point road and Sawmill Creek road.
- Damage assessment and recovery efforts are dramatically improved by creating a secondary access from the main road system which would be littered with debris and hazardous conditions.

Imagine if the improvements to the Cross Trail were to extend the entire length of Sawmill Creek Road? In addition to the items described above:

- The residents of Sawmill Creek Road would also be able to utilize the side roads to access high ground and if needed, could utilize the cross trail to get to the designated shelters.
- The traffic along Sawmill Creek Road would allow the heavy equipment and fuel trucks to deploy to the ball fields in a timely manner.
- The pre-schools on Sheldon Jackson Campus and Baranof School would be able to access the improved Cross Trail as a designated emergency evacuation route if needed.
- During any day time emergency, if the residents of Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road utilized the side roads for high ground, the round about would be clear for all the Japonski Island residents to evacuate without causing a congestion.

There are certainly other uses for the Cross Trail for recreational purposes. However, by design or by accident, this trail system has provided the City and Borough of Sitka a safe evacuation route along the entire main road systems of Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road. Any and all improvements to this trail system only benefit the safety and emergency response to all residents of Sitka. Please pass a Resolution of Support for this grant. In the event of a major disaster, this trail system will save many lives.

Sincerely,



Dave Miller, Fire Chief
City and Borough of Sitka, Emergency Manager

cc: Lynne Brandon, Parks and Recreation Manager
Michael Harmon, Public Works Director
Jay Sweeney, Finance Director
Deborah Lyons, Executive Director, Sitka Trail Works