

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO authorize the Municipal Administrator to apply to the US Department Transportation's Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant to Fund a Condition Assessment for two CBS-owned bridges.




CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Ron Vinson, Public Works Director
Melissa Henshaw, Public and Government Relations Director

Date: August 2, 2023

Subject: Authorization to Apply to the US Department of Transportation Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant to Fund a Condition Assessment for two CBS-owned bridges

Background

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL, created the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program (the Program) to provide early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects. The Program will award grants for either the hiring of staff or the procurement of expert firms to provide financial, technical, and legal assistance; assistance with development phase activities; and information regarding innovative financing best practices and case studies.

The grants are intended to augment organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs. Projects receiving assistance must be reasonably expected to be eligible for one or more of the Department's lending or grant program including: TIFIA, RRIF, INFRA, RAISE, Mega, and the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant program.

- Applications are due August 14 at 2:00 p.m. ET.
- Award range is \$150,000 to \$360,000.
- Grants will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.
- No local funding match is required.
- Funds are to be expended within 3 years.
- Expected award date by December.

Link to the program: <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>

The application is asking to fund condition assessments for two CBS-owned bridges, 1) Sawmill Creek Powerplant Access Bridge and, 2) Granite Creek Landfill Bridge. Condition assessments of bridges that are owned by the City and Borough of Sitka have been performed at a high-level from partnering agencies in the past. Most recently, an assessment in 2022 indicated areas of concern. These assessments will include a more thorough analysis and the development of mitigation recommendations for the CBS to use in future planning efforts.

Bridge projects that result from this assessment may be eligible for at least two of the Department of Transportation's lending or grant programs that are listed.

This project is supported in the [Sitka's Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#) as goal 4: Plan and invest in sustainable infrastructure for future generations, specifically 4.1: Identify and pursue funding to address existing capital needs and deferred maintenance.

Fiscal Note

The condition assessment for the Granite Creek Landfill Bridge has been identified as a need in the FY2024 budget. The condition assessment for the Granite Creek Landfill Bridge is in the FY2024 capital budget at \$250,000, so any grant funding would reduce what must be covered from working capital from the Solid Waste Fund. No funding has been appropriated for the Sawmill Creek powerplant Access Bridge, so a new appropriation would be required. There is no match requirement for the grant funds.

Recommendation

Authorize the Municipal Administrator to apply to the US Department Transportation's Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant to Fund a Condition Assessment for two CBS-owned bridges.