



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

December 31, 2012

MEMO TO: Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator
Mayor and Assembly

FROM: Marlene Campbell, Government Relations Director

SUBJECT: Loss of DOTPF Funding for Cross Trail Project and SMC Road Project

On December 12, the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) issued a notice that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 4 for 2013 to 2015 was available for comments. Missing from this revised STIP were two Sitka projects which had been funded in the previous two STIP amendments: the Sitka Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway and Sawmill Creek Road Upgrade from the Roundabout to Jeff Davis Street. DOTPF's justification for eliminating these projects was that the new funding levels contained in the new Federal Transportation bill, MAP-21, requires more National Highway System and safety project work and less Community Transportation (CTP) and Trail (TRAAK) Projects statewide. Sitka's projects were deleted with no expectation of future funding.

The SMC Road upgrade project has been stabilized with pavement patches, but the inadequate pedestrian facilities are still safety issues. CBS will continue to advocate for this State road upgrade as a safety project, but funding is unlikely.

The Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway project must be constructed soon or some of the matching funds for the project will be lost. Sitka Trail Works and CBS therefore propose to request the \$842,382 that has been eliminated by DOTPF directly from the Legislature, and submit this request rather than the "Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway Phase II" request that the Assembly already approved in the 2014 Legislative Priorities. This project would have completed the rest of the Cross Trail central segment that due to high overhead costs of DOTPF and onerous Federal requirements was not fully funded. Since DOTPF deleted this Federal funding, if CBS can secure the \$842,382 directly from the State, it is estimated that the entire Cross Trail central segment project could be completed with this grant and existing matching funds.

Recommendation: That the Assembly approve replacing "Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway Phase II" in FY'14 Legislative Priorities with "Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway" in the amount of \$842,382.

FY 2014 CBS LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST

Project Title: CROSS TRAIL MULTIMODAL PATHWAY

Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,003,000 (100%)
State Funding Already Secured:	\$ 40,618 (4%)
Other Funding (USFS, STW, Rasmuson, CBS):	\$ 120,000 (12%)
FY 2014 State Funding Request:	\$ 842,382 (84%)
City and Borough of Sitka Federal Tax ID Number:	92-0041163

The City and Borough of Sitka requests \$842,382 to replace previous funding eliminated by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for construction of the central segments of the Sitka Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway. This high priority non-motorized transportation project had been slated for federal transportation funding in both the 2010-12 and 2012-2015 STIP. The new MAP-21 Federal Transportation Bill restructured the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans Program and eliminated funding for this project in December 2012. As a result, the heart of Sitka's planned and existing twelve-mile system of multiuse pathways extending from the AMHS Ferry Terminal to Sawmill Cove Industrial Park is in jeopardy, including matching funds if the project is not funded for the 2014 construction season.

The Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway project consists of new construction of approximately 9,100 linear feet multiuse pathway to connect the existing multiuse trail with the core downtown area of Sitka via Yaw Drive, Pherson Street, Baranof Street and the Indian River Trailhead. This partnership project between the CBS and Sitka Trail Works, Inc. would complete a design/build project consisting of a compacted gravel pathway of 8-10 foot width on a shot rock base, consistent with previous construction phases. The project involves easement acquisition, upgrading the existing substandard and unsafe hiking trail to multiuse standard, new pathway construction and trailhead construction.

Since 2007, CBS, Sitka Trail Works, Inc., US Forest Service, the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Trails Initiative Program and Alaska Recreation Trails Program have invested over \$1.4 million in development and construction of four miles of multiuse trail, including a 65 foot bridge sufficient for vehicles. The Cross Trail multimodal pathway connects to a series of separated pedestrian and bike pathways along City and State roads that have been built with Federal Transportation dollars and State General Obligation Bonds.

The existing trail route has resulted in extensive damage to the surrounding wetlands. Reroutes will help protect sensitive wetlands and allow damaged areas to be restored. Wooden trail structures are at the end of useable life. The project will remove failing, unsafe boardwalk and upgrade the pathway to a barrier-free standard that resolves safety and accessibility issues. Reconstruction as a non-motorized transportation route will greatly improve non-motorized user safety and reduce maintenance costs significantly. In addition, upgrading the central segments of the Cross Trail will alleviate sections of the trail which are not multimodal to provide a system of multimodal pathways throughout the entire Cross Trail rather than just on either end of the Cross Trail.