Office of the Governor





OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET Neil Steininger, Director

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February 16, 2021

The Honorable Representative Foster Co-Chair, House Finance Committee Alaska State Capitol Room 505 Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Representative Merrick Co-Chair, House Finance Committee Alaska State Capitol Room 511 Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick,

Thank you for inviting the Office of Management and Budget to present on the Governor's fiscal year 2023 capital budget to the House Finance Committee on Friday, January 28th. Responses to questions and requests for follow-up information from the committee hearing are included below:

Representative Carpenter asked for a list of Federal Infrastructure Bill (BIL/IIJA) programs with associated (known) funding amounts that will come to the State of Alaska, if any.

The full impacts of the recently passed federal infrastructure bill are still being analyzed, so there is not enough information to provide a detailed list at this time. Only a portion of the money Alaska is expected to receive will come directly to the State, as many discretionary grant programs are open to tribes, local governments, and other entities. The funds appropriated to the State of Alaska over 5 years will be an increase in funding to existing federal programs including, but not limited to, federal highway programs, airport improvement, village safe water, etc. Federal guidance for new spending in the Federal Infrastructure Bill may not be available before the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2022. As funding projection information becomes available, it will be provided to the committee. Appropriation authority will be sought from the legislature for any infrastructure funds expected to be received in FY23 through a separate appropriation vehicle this legislative session.

Representative LeBon requested a list of communities benefitting from the Community Block Grant capital projects.

Grants are awarded via a competitive grant solicitation each year. At this point in time the Department does not know which communities will receive funding because the solicitation has not yet been issued. A summary of the program is available online at from the Department website, <u>hyperlinked here</u>¹. Information on prior grant recipients is <u>hyperlinked here</u>².

¹ <u>https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/grantssection/communitydevelopmentblockgrants.aspx</u> Accessed February 14, 2022.

² <u>https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/92391961eebf452ab186bd9a240f999e</u> Accessed February 15, 2022.

Representative Foster requested information on the active status of the <u>Citizens' Advisory</u> <u>Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA)</u> during a discussion of the *RS2477 Access Development – Advancing State's Rights in Navigability and Revised Statute 2477* capital project.

Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) funding was vetoed in June 2016. Although activities are on hiatus because staff are no longer available to maintain and monitor the CACFA website, the Commission Members are still on the board. More information is available on the CACFA website, <u>Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (alaska.gov)</u>³.

Representative LeBon requested information about the location and project timeline of the Fairbanks Construction of a Certified Veterans Cemetery.

The Ester site is located off of the Parks Highway. The cleanup for this site will be contracted through the procurement process by the Department of Transportation. If the funds are received this summer, cleanup is likely to start in the fall of 2022 or the spring of 2023 and is estimated to be completed within a year.

Representative Foster requested a list of aircraft that will be purchased and replaced with the \$6,000.0 UGF appropriation.

- 1 Cessna C-208 Caravan \$2,000.0
- 3 Robinson R-44 Helicopters \$1,500.0
- 3 Cessna C-206 Stationair Airplanes \$1,500.0

Representative LeBon requested an inventory, age, and miles driven for Trooper vehicles.

Please see attachment 1 for detailed Trooper vehicle inventory:

Total # of Vehicles	616
Average Age	2014
Average Mileage	70,089

Representative Josephson requested a list of BSA carryforward balances of unspent monies from the Foundation Funding Formula that is available to districts to carry into future years.

Please see attachment 2 for the most recent list.

Representative Carpenter list of districts with the amount of COVID relief that the districts have received to-date.

Please see attachment 3 for the breakdown by district.

³ <u>http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/</u> Accessed February 14, 2022.

February 16, 2022 Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick

Representative Josephson requested information about how much COVID funding the Palmer and Wasilla airports have received to-date.

Per information released by FAA, the Palmer and Wasilla airports received \$75,000 each in COVID relief funding to date.

Don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

no

Neil Steininger Director

cc: Akis Gialopsos, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division