

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030816****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Substandard Roads and Bridges

**State Funding Requested: \$6,500,000****House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Many roads within the borough lack an adequate driving surface, right-of-way, and drainage, thereby reducing traffic capacity and increasing overall maintenance costs. Bridges within the borough have been rated as unsafe by the State's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which has seriously affected the ability of residents to travel and obtain emergency services, home heating fuel delivery, and septic pumping.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$6,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$6,500,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

N/A

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The project consists of completing the environmental, design, permitting, and construction phases to correct problems on many substandard roads and rehabilitating or replacing vehicular bridges throughout the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The substandard road problems include degraded gravel surfaces, insufficient road embankment height and width, and inadequate storm drainage ditch capacity. A number of Borough bridges have been identified as unsafe by the State of Alaska. After experiencing many years of growth, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has an expanded need to provide safe, passable roads and bridges that can accommodate emergency response, school bus service, and commercial and residential traffic. This request for funding is in line with the Borough's overall priorities of ensuring its infrastructure is safe, promoting economic development, and providing basic transportation infrastructure to its residents.

Examples of bridge projects that could be funded are (not prioritized):

- Replacement of Bridge No. 2225, Shorty Street over the Little Susitna River. This structure is a single-lane bridge that has weight restrictions, substandard approaches, bridge rails, and deck. The approaches were affected by the September 2012 flooding and the bridge had to be closed. MSB has a 30% design and a study report for this bridge. Approximate cost to finish design and construction is \$1.5 Million.

- Replacement of Bridge No. 2161, Oilwell Road over Kroto Creek. This single-lane structure has substandard approaches and abutments, and failing backwalls. No engineered plans have been found for the existing structure. This bridge sees substantial recreational use. The MSB also receives numerous inquiries about this structure, due to the timber and mining resources on the other side. Replacement would also include upgrading approximately two miles of road leading to the bridge. MSB has a 30% design and a study report for this bridge. Approximate cost to finish design and construction is \$2.5 Million.

- Replacement of Bridge No. 1936, Bradley Road over Trapper Creek. This functionally obsolete single-lane structure has a three-ton weight restriction. It also has substandard approaches, bridge rails, geometry, and deck. This structure is eligible for federal bridge replacement funding; however, DOT&PF has decided not to pursue replacement and intends to leave this bridge "as-is." Approximate cost for design and construction is \$1.1 Million.

- Borough-Wide Bridge Maintenance and Repairs. The MSB has a list of repairs and maintenance items needed on all of the Borough-owned and maintained bridges, ranging from minor cleaning to replacing major structural and safety members. This funding will allow the Borough engineers to develop a scope of work to solicit bids from contractors. Approximate cost is \$1.3 Million.

- Education and Public Awareness for Private Bridges. There are numerous private bridges located within the MSB that serve both single family homes, condo-type plats with multiple users, and service vehicles. This funding will allow the Borough to reach out to the owners of these structures and educate them on the importance of routine bridge inspections and maintenance. Method of delivery could be various media sources, pamphlets, handouts, and booths at different events. Approximate cost is \$75,000.

- Training and Equipment for MSB Engineers. The MSB is responsible for inspecting structures, including culverts, not covered as part of the State's bridge inspection program. This funding will allow the MSB to acquire inspection equipment for this task and allow staff to attend training to stay up-to-date with bridge technology and inspection methods. Approximate cost is \$25,000.

Funding could also be applied to the following substandard road projects:

- Oilwell Road - \$1.5 million is needed to upgrade drainage, increase sizing of cross culverts, and dig out corduroy road bases. This helps to improve a "road to resources" for the state.

- Little Su River Road and Campground Access - \$2.75 million is needed to widen and increase soil stability on Little Su River Road; improve drainage and cross culverts on Ayrshire and Guernsey; and chipseal or pave the 7.5 miles of Ayrshire to the Little Su campground to improve access to state facilities and fisheries.

- Soapstone Road - \$1 million is needed to purchase ROW, plat, survey, and construct a new road for create secondary emergency ingress and egress. The Soapstone Road project needs to be phased. The first phase would be the reconstruction and upgrade of Soapstone from its origin at the Glenn Highway to its terminus, approximately 2.2 miles west. The current road is constructed to residential standards; however, it serves as a major collector road for many subdivisions. The existing road has numerous safety problems, including, but not limited to, poor visibility at many intersections and poor sight distance over vertical curves. Upgrades to the road would also include right-of-way acquisition. This is the first segment of a future east-west corridor connecting Soapstone Road to Jenson Road.

- Horseshoe Lake Road - \$3 million is needed for Horseshoe Lake Road in RSA 21. Of that, \$1.75 million would be used for utility relocation and the construction of Horseshoe Lake Phase I, and \$1.25 million would fund Phase II, to include ROW, utilities, construction, and chip sealing to reduce air pollution on the five-mile loop. This project will improve ingress and egress and mitigate air pollution in a fire safety area.

**Project Timeline:**

If funded, projects would begin in Fall of 2014.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No