

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Homer Chamber of Commerce****Federal Tax ID: 92-0080954****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

Homer Chamber of Commerce - Parking Lot Paving at Visitor Information Center

State Funding Requested: \$75,000**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Paving the Visitor Information Center parking lot will improve the appearance of the area, allow better access for the influx of visitors during the summer season, and year-round Chamber events, ensure handicap accessibility, and provide improved overflow parking for neighboring businesses.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$75,000)
Project Deficit:	\$125,000

Funding Details:

Excavation, grading and backfill have already been completed at the cost of \$400,000 to the Chamber of Commerce.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Homer Chamber of Commerce (HCOC) is seeking funds to pave the HCOC Visitor Information Center parking lot as part of a phased Beautification Project. This project will enhance development of the City's new Scenic Gateway Overlay District and has further potential to tie in with proposed Town Center development. The funds requested will be used to pave the parking lot, add ditches and culverts for drainage, stripe the lot for parking spaces, and add signage to deter pass-through traffic from the Sterling Highway to Bunnell Street.

Paving the Visitor Information Center parking lot will improve the appearance of the area, allow better access for the influx of visitors during the summer season, and year-round Chamber events, ensure handicap accessibility, and provide improved overflow parking for neighboring businesses. In addition, it will help address health and safety issues related to poor air quality, speeding vehicles, and pebbles kicked up by cars cutting through the parking lot between the Sterling Highway and Bunnell Street.

One of the first places visitors come to when they drive into Homer is the Homer Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center. Approximately 150,000 people visit Homer every year. First impressions are what visitors to a community use to judge that area. Attracting new businesses and families to our community--while also maintaining community pride for existing residents--is one of the key missions of the Homer Chamber of Commerce. An attractive Visitor Information Center, parking area, and surrounding grounds should be regarded as an important asset benefiting the entire community.

Project Timeline:

FY2015

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

Homer Chamber of Commerce

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