

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: Snomads**

**Federal Tax ID:**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

# Snomads, Inc. - Willard Road Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$50,000**  
One-Time Need

**House District: 35 / R**

**Brief Project Description:**

Improvements to bring Willard Road to borough standards

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$198,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$49,800	2010				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,800</b>					

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Funds are needed to purchase materials to make improvements to Willard Road to borough standards so that residents can access the Caribou Hills area year-round. Currently, Willard Road is little more than a one-lane road bed that is impassible during much of the summer and not maintainable during the winter. The road needs to be widened, fabric put down and gravel applied. There is a borough gravel pit within three miles from where Willard Road begins that could conveniently be used for constructing the road. The borough has agreed to waive the gravel tax and the operator of the gravel pit has agreed to discount the gravel to make the project more affordable. Additionally, the non-profit organization Snomads, Inc., has contractors who are willing to donate equipment and labor to haul gravel, move dirt and lay down road fabric. Landowners in the area have done substantial work to improve the road. \$135,000 has been spent by Snomads, Inc., landowners, and grantors to provide access and a staging area for the remote homes and cabins in the Caribou Lake area. Snomads, Inc. and community members have been working on this access project for six years. Over the last two years they have acquired the proper easements and surveys necessary to widen the road. The last step in this long process will be improving Willard road. The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) has committed to maintaining the road once it has been brought up to KPB standards.

The Caribou Hills area is used by many members of the community. There are homes, businesses, trails, public and private cabins in the area. One of the draws of the Caribou Hills Area is its remote access; however, at present, users do not have a safe place to stage travel from. The State, community members and grantors have invested in providing a parking pad down Willard Road to provide a safe parking/staging area for loading and off loading of supplies, equipment, and persons; however, this parking/staging area is inaccessible due to the nature of Willard Road which is a one-lane road lacking adequate gravel. Therefore, users park along side Bassargin Road causing a severe traffic hazard to commuters. There is substantial traffic on Bassargin road as it is the main access to Razdolna Village. Willard Road needs to be widened as during the few months it is passable there is a serious threat of a head-on collision as there is not enough space for vehicles to pass. The ditches on either sides are up to six feet deep with steep grades. There are 400 parcels of land in the Caribou Hills area, 200-plus structures, homes, and businesses. The state has an additional 300 plus parcels it would like to

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$50,000  
Approved**

develop and sell in the Caribou Hills area; however, the state needs to be assured of safe access to these parcels before it can continue development. Snomads, Inc. has worked hard as the lead non-profit organization at providing safe and adequate public access to a parking/staging area for landowners, business patrons, community members, residents and home owners. We ask that the state help with the purchase of materials so this multi stage project of providing safe access can be completed.

**Project Timeline:**

The project will be constructed by using gravel from the gravel pit located within 3 miles from the start of Willard Road. Local contractors have volunteered to provide the necessary equipment and Snomads, Inc. along with community members have volunteered to provide labor for the project.

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

Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: David L. Mastolier  
Address: PO Box 3646  
Homer, AK 99603  
Phone Number: (907)399-1775  
Email: snomads@gmail.com

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



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## YEAR 2010 STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

### COMMUNITY: FRITZ CREEK, VOZNESENKA & KACHEMAK SELO

**Funding Recipient:** Snomads, Inc.

**Project Name:** Willard Road Improvements

Project Priority  
Ranking: 1

#### Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Funds are needed to purchase materials to make improvements to Willard Road to borough standards so that residents can access the Caribou Hills area year-round. Currently, Willard Road is little more than a one-lane road bed that is impassible during much of the summer and not maintainable during the winter. The road needs to be widened, fabric put down and gravel applied. There is a borough gravel pit within three miles from where Willard Road begins that could conveniently be used for constructing the road. The borough has agreed to waive the gravel tax and the operator of the gravel pit has agreed to discount the gravel to make the project more affordable. Additionally, the non-profit organization Snomads, Inc., has contractors who are willing to donate equipment and labor to haul gravel, move dirt and lay down road fabric. Landowners in the area have done substantial work to improve the road. \$135,000 has been spent by Snomads, Inc., landowners, and grantors to provide access and a staging area for the remote homes and cabins in the Caribou Lake area. Snomads, Inc. and community members have been working on this access project for six years. Over the last two years they have acquired the proper easements and surveys necessary to widen the road. The last step in this long process will be improving Willard road. The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) has committed to maintaining the road once it has been brought up to KPB standards.

The Caribou Hills area is used by many members of the community. There are homes, businesses, trails, public and private cabins in the area. One of the draws of the Caribou Hills Area is its remote access; however, at present, users do not have a safe place to stage travel from. The State, community members and grantors have invested in providing a parking pad down Willard Road to provide a safe parking/staging area for loading and off loading of supplies, equipment, and persons; however, this parking/staging area is inaccessible due to the nature of Willard Road which is a one-lane road lacking adequate gravel. Therefore, users park along side Bassargin Road causing a severe traffic hazard to commuters. There is substantial traffic on Bassargin road as it is the main access to Razdolna Village. Willard Road needs to be widened as during the few months it is passable there is a serious threat of a head-on collision as there is not enough space for vehicles to pass. The ditches on either sides are up to six feet deep with steep grades. There are 400 parcels of land in the Caribou Hills area, 200-plus structures, homes, and businesses. The state has an additional 300 plus parcels it would like to develop and sell in the Caribou Hills area; however, the state needs to be assured of safe access to these parcels before it can continue development. Snomads, Inc. has worked hard as the lead non-profit organization at providing safe and adequate public access to a parking/staging area for landowners, business patrons, community members, residents and home owners. We ask that the state help with the purchase of materials so this multi stage project of providing safe access can be completed.

<b>Funding Request:</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>	Election District:	Senate:	R
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$198,000</b>		House:	35
<b>Local Match (if any) and Source:</b>	<b>\$ 33,000</b>	(In Kind Donation)		

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

David L. Mastolier	Phone:	907-399-1775
President	Fax:	907-235-1408
PO Box 3646	E-mail:	snomads@gmail.com
Homer, AK 99603		

**How has the community shown support for this project? (Volunteerism, money, resolutions, etc.)**

The community, through the non-profit organization Snomads, Inc., Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, DNR Conservation Development Board, road/trail users, and local landowners have spent over \$135,000 in money, time, and labor towards improving Willard Road and the parking/staging area project. This project is the number one priority for Snomads, Inc. and has strong support from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), trail users, the community to include surrounding villages and landowners.

**What steps have been taken to date to get this project going?**

The community has been working on this project for approximately six years. To date, the steps taken to get this project going include completed surveys, easement work, some road improvements, and a parking/staging pad put in place.

**How did the Community select this project as a funding priority? (Community meeting, survey, etc.)**

This project was selected as a priority at a community meeting held November of 2007 where State and Borough officials, DNR, KPB Road Service Board, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, local non-profits, land owners, users, and local area residents met and created a committee to work on this project. The committee is part of Snomads, Inc. Again, at a community meeting held October 23, 2008 this project was voted on by the community as a priority for the Capital Improvement Projects for the lower KPB.

**If you conducted a community meeting, how was it advertised? When and where was the meeting held?**

Advertising for the meeting was done through Public Service Announcements on local radio and newspapers, mailings, flyers posted at the local schools and various other public facilities, and emails. The meetings were held at the Homer City Hall and McNeil Canyon School.

**Who attended? (List specific groups such as community council, APC, general public, etc.)**

Those that attended were: State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Kenai Peninsula Borough officials, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, local non-profits, land owners, business owners, trail users, Villagers, and local area residents.

**Who owns the property and what is the status of the land for the project?**

The land is State owned with a 60' wide legal easement.

**Who will own the project or facility?**

Upon completion of the project the road will be accepted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for road maintenance.

**How will the project be constructed or accomplished?**

The project will be constructed by using gravel from the gravel pit located within 3 miles from the start of Willard Road. Local contractors have volunteered to provide the necessary equipment and Snomads, Inc. along with community members have volunteered to provide labor for the project.

**Who will operate and/or maintain the project or facility?**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough will maintain the road once it is built to KPB standards.