

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Project Title:

Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Parks Highway Connector Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$2,000,000

House District: Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Construct several existing two-lane borough roads adjacent and parallel to the Parks Highway from Wasilla to Big Lake.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$2,000,000

	<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>
State Funds	\$6,000,000	FY2009				
Total	\$6,000,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project would connect several existing two-lane borough collector roads adjacent and parallel to the Parks Highway from Wasilla to Big Lake. This project recognizes the need for a frontage-road type access to residents, commercial businesses, and industry from Lucus Road to the Big Lake Cut-Off. This is an alternative to the significant cost associated with buying additional Parks Highway right-of-way for a frontage road system -- estimated at \$80 million -- and with relocating many residential and commercial structures.

This connector system will help alleviate traffic congestion and accident rates, better distribute local traffic, and improve local community access.

Originally, six connectors were identified by the Borough. FY 2009 funding was used to design two such roads: Machen Drive and Museum Drive. These projects will be out to bid in Fall 2010 and Fall 2011, respectively.

This year's funding will allow the borough to move forward with designing additional needed connectors.

Project Timeline:

FY 2011

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

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

\$2,000,000
Approved

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	John Duffy
Address:	350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK 99645
Phone Number:	(907)745-9689
Email:	jduffy@matsugov.us

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



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9689 • Fax (907) 745-9669

jduffy@matsugov.us

CY2008 Capital Project Description

Parks Highway Connectors

1. **Project Name:** Parks Highway Connectors
2. **Project Location and House District:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough;
House District: 15H
3. **Description of Project:** This project would connect several existing two-lane Borough collector roads adjacent and parallel to the Parks Highway from Wasilla to Big Lake. This project recognizes the need for a frontage road type access to residents, commercial businesses and industry adjacent to the Parks Highway from Lucas Road to Big Lake MP 44-52.3. This is an alternative to the significant cost of buying additional Parks Highway right-of-way for a frontage road system (estimated at \$80 Million) causing the relocation of many structures, both residential and commercial in nature. This project will help alleviate traffic congestion and accident rates, better distribute local traffic, and improve local community access.
4. **Describe the regional benefits of the project, if any:** The Parks Highway is the state's most economically important interstate highway carrying through traffic from Anchorage to Fairbanks and the North Slope passing through Wasilla, Meadow Lakes and the Big Lake area. Because of the lack of an adequate local road network, the Parks Highway also acts as a residential street, a collector road and a minor arterial providing direct driveway access to residents and local businesses. For trips as short as a quarter mile, residents must drive onto the Parks Highway to get to their destination. Connecting a network of existing collector roads will alleviate the need to do this and restore the Parks Highway as an interstate highway, the primary purpose of which is to move through traffic rather than local traffic.
5. **Describe the public health and safety aspects of the project, if any:** From 1977 to 2005 there have been 36 fatalities on the Parks highway from Wasilla to Big Lake. This amounts to 14.69 fatalities and major injuries per mile. The project would reduce accidents by removing a significant amount of local turning traffic from the Parks Highway. The reduction of local traffic on the interstate highway system would also reduce congestion and improve air quality.
6. **Amount of Funding Request:** \$6 Million
7. **Total funding to complete the project:** \$6 Million
8. **Number of years to complete the project; start and end dates:** This project could be completed in one year beginning in spring of 2009 and ending by early winter 2009.

9. **Matching funds available/sources:** The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contributed approximately \$20,000 in matching funds to this project to complete the design, ROW and environmental reconnaissance phase.
10. **If the project received prior state appropriations, list the amount and the year of the appropriation:** None.
11. **Are funds for the project included in the Governor's proposed FY2009 budget? If so, where?** Not at this time.
12. **Are federal funds being sought, either through competitive grants or earmarks?**
Because of the urgent need for this project only state funding is being sought. Federal funding requirements would cause many years of delay. ADOT&PF reports no additional federal funds available in the STIP. For the last two years federal earmark funds have been deducted from our National Highway System program reducing funds available for needed improvements to the Parks and Glenn Highways.
13. **Has the project gone through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority demonstrated by resolution or other official action by the governing body?** The Parks Highway Lucas Road to Big Lake MP 44-52.3 project is in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Long Range Transportation Plan as a high priority Base Level project and has been through an extensive public participation phase. This project (Parks Highway Connectors) will be required to resolve public issues brought up during that public review process. The Parks Highway Lucas to Big Lake project is listed in the Borough's Capital Improvement Program National Highway System Projects section as the number one priority. The collector roads connection "sister" project can be found in the Borough's CIP under General Transportation Infrastructure Projects.
14. **If funding is made available for the project this year, who will be responsible for providing the ongoing maintenance and operations costs?** The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
15. **Project contact information – name, address, e-mail, phone number:**

John Duffy, Borough Manager
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 E. Dahlia Ave.
Palmer, Alaska 99645
jduffy@matsugov.us
907-745-9689