

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grant Recipient: Homer****Federal Tax ID: 920030963****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Homer - Cruise Ship Dock and Passenger Facility Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$5,955,000
One-Time Need

House District: 35 / R**Brief Project Description:**

This project will maximize benefits of cruise ship tourism in Homer for passengers and for the community through improvements to the Cruise Ship Dock and by providing services and improving conditions in the harbor area and downtown.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$5,955,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$5,955,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Classified as an Emerging Port for cruise-ship based tourism, the Port of Homer has seen a dramatic increase in cruise ship bookings in the last three years, from two ships in 2009 to nine in 2010 to fifteen scheduled for 2011. With the goal of maximizing benefits of cruise ship tourism for both the passengers and the Homer community, the City of Homer has developed an Integrated Cruise Ship Enhancement Strategy that would utilize state cruise ship head tax and gambling tax monies. This project will implement key features of that strategy:

- Add docking fender, camel upgrade, and bollard upgrades to the Deep Water Dock (also known as the Cruise Ship Dock) (\$2.15 million). These upgrades will greatly facilitate docking maneuvers and help prevent damage to cruise ships.
- Modify the dock to eliminate bird nesting (\$600,000). The existing open I-beam construction of the Cruise Ship Dock creates ideal nesting sites for hundreds of seagulls, which in turn creates a huge problem with bird excrement and offensive odors. This problem will be largely eliminated by welding steel plates over the open I-beams, removing old fender brackets, and installing bird-deterrent spikes on dock support systems.
- Purchase a broom attachment for the Port forklift, to be used for cleaning the dock prior to cruise ship arrivals (\$10,000).
- Install a steel transition plate to bridge the gap between the dock and the dock trestle, for the full width of the trestle (\$20,000). Currently this gap creates a trip hazard for foot traffic, a particular problem for less agile passengers.
- Construct a guard house for security personnel that includes a public restroom (\$500,000).
- Construct a covered area for passengers waiting for ground transportation (\$50,000).
- Create a level, paved, and fenced staging area specifically for cruise ship passengers (separated from marine industrial uses) (\$100,000). The paved and marked surface will eliminate problems with dust and uneven/hazardous terrain that plague the area now and make it easier to direct passenger and vehicle/bus traffic. Signage will also help eliminate confusion in the staging area.

--Construct a paved ADA-compliant trail along the east side of the existing harbor and Outer Dock Road (4,000 feet). Include three pullout/view areas with benches and signage (\$425,000).

--Construct a paved parking area and covered shelter in the main commercial/retail area of the harbor for passengers embarking/disembarking from buses (\$100,000).

--Construct a paved trail from where the new Spit Trail ends (at End of the Road Park) to Coal Point, to include benches and signage at Coal Point and a restroom at End of the Road Park (\$950,000). The new trail will be utilized by passengers who disembark at either the Cruise Ship Dock or the Pioneer Dock (back-up cruise ship dock). Coal Point provides an outstanding overlook area for observing all the activities of the harbor, including those at the Fish Dock. Project may include ADA access to harbor on west side.

--Construct public restrooms with covered bus stops at two downtown locations (\$1 million).

--Include public art and landscaping features with some of the above projects to enhance the visitor experience (\$50,000).

Project Timeline:

If the project is funded, all work will occur in 2011-2013.

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

City of Homer

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Walt Wrede
 Title: City Manager
 Address: 491 E. Pioneer Avenue
 Homer, Alaska 99603
 Phone Number: (907)435-3102
 Email: wwrede@ci.homer.ak.us

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



City of Homer State Legislative Request - FY 2012

DEEP WATER/CRUISE SHIP DOCK: DOCKING & UPLAND PASSENGER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & BENEFIT: Classified as an Emerging Port for cruise-ship based tourism, the Port of Homer has seen a dramatic increase in cruise ship bookings in the last three years, from two ships in 2009 to nine in 2010 to fifteen scheduled for 2011. With the goal of encouraging this trend, the City of Homer has developed an Integrated Cruise Ship Enhancement Strategy aimed at utilizing state cruise ship head tax monies to maximize benefits of cruise ship tourism for both passengers and the Homer community. This project will implement key features of that strategy:

- Add docking fender, camel upgrade, and bollard upgrades to the Deep Water Dock (also known as the Cruise Ship Dock) (\$2.15 million). These upgrades will greatly facilitate docking maneuvers and help prevent damage to cruise ships.
- Modify the dock to eliminate bird nesting (\$600,000). The existing open I-beam construction of the Cruise Ship Dock creates ideal nesting sites for hundreds of seagulls, which in turn creates a huge problem with bird excrement. This problem will be largely eliminated by welding steel plates over the open I-beams, removing old fender brackets, and installing bird-deterrent spikes on dock support systems.
- Purchase a broom attachment for the Port forklift, to be used for cleaning the dock prior to cruise ship arrivals (\$10,000).
- Install a steel transition plate to bridge the gap between the dock and the dock trestle, for the full width of the trestle (\$20,000). Currently this gap creates a trip hazard for foot traffic, a particular problem for less agile passengers.
- Construct a guard house for security personnel that includes a public restroom (\$500,000).
- Construct a covered area for passengers waiting for ground transportation (\$50,000).
- Create a level, paved, and fenced staging area specifically for cruise ship passengers (separated from marine industrial uses) (\$100,000). The paved and marked surface will eliminate problems with dust and uneven/hazardous terrain that plague the area now and make it easier to direct passenger and vehicle/bus traffic. Signage will also help eliminate confusion in the staging area.
- Construct a paved ADA-compliant trail along the east side of the existing harbor and Outer Dock Road (4,000 feet). Include three pullout/view areas with benches and signage (\$425,000).
- Construct a paved parking area and covered shelter in the main commercial/retail area of the harbor for passengers embarking/disembarking from buses (\$100,000).
- Construct a paved trail from where the new Spit Trail ends (at End of the Road Park) to Coal Point, to include benches and signage at Coal Point and a restroom at End of the Road Park (\$950,000). The new trail will be utilized by passengers who disembark at either the Cruise Ship Dock or the Pioneer Dock (back-up cruise ship dock). Coal Point provides an outstanding overlook area for observing all the activities of the harbor, including those at the Fish Dock. Project may include ADA access to harbor on west side.
- Construct public restrooms with covered bus stops at two downtown locations (\$1 million).
- Include public art and landscaping features with some of the above projects to enhance the visitor experience (\$50,000).



A stinky dock, rough unmarked parking lot, lack of weather protection, and general disheveled appearance at the Cruise Ship Dock uplands do not provide the best first impression of Homer.

Total project cost: \$5,955,000

Schedule: 2011-2013

FY 2012 STATE REQUEST: \$5,955,000



Office of the Mayor

James C. Hornaday

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February 25, 2011

Representative Paul Seaton
Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton and Senator Stevens:

This letter accompanies our State Legislative Request packet containing detailed descriptions of projects for which the City of Homer is seeking funding in the FY 2012 capital budget.

The state legislative priorities list below was approved by the City Council at its meeting of February 15, 2011.

1. Sewer Treatment Plant Bio-solids Treatment Improvements
2. Homer Area Natural Gas Pipeline
3. Skyline Fire Station
4. Harbor Float Replacement/Ramp 3 Gangway and Approach Replacement
5. Port & Harbor Building
6. Fire Engine 4 Refurbishment
7. Alternative Water Source
8. Deep Water/Cruise Ship Dock Expansion, Phase 1
9. Karen Hornaday Park Improvements, Phase 1
10. Homer Intersection Improvements
11. Deep Water/Cruise Ship Dock: Docking and Upland Passenger Facility Improvements
12. Mariner Park Improvements, Phase 1
13. Fishing Lagoon Improvements
14. Upgrade System 5: Vessel Shore Power and Water

Your assistance in obtaining funding for these projects, which will provide significant long-range benefits to the Homer community and southern Kenai Peninsula, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

James C. Hornaday
Mayor