

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Whittier****Federal Tax ID: 92-0041440****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Whittier - Shotgun Cove Road Phase III

State Funding Requested: \$400,000**House District: 32 / P**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Realign and pave Blackstone Road which is the approach to Shotgun Cove Road

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$4,200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$3,800,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$400,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The construction of Shotgun Cove Road is an ongoing project that will connect the core area of the City of Whittier initially to Emerald Cove and eventually Shotgun Cove. Once the road is complete it will have crossed and provided access to 640 acres of land that was given to the City of Whittier by the State of Alaska. Development of the land in and en route to Shotgun Cove is essential to the future growth and development of the City of Whittier.

Phase I of the Shotgun Cove Road project was completed in 2009 and Phase II was started in 2010 and will be completed in 2011. The remaining funds at the completion of Phase II, estimated to be \$3.8 million will be used towards Phase III.

Phase III includes the realignment and paving of Blackstone Road which serves as the approach to Shotgun Cove Road. Blackstone Road also serves as the primary access to Whittier Manor which is the second largest residential area in Whittier. Blackstone Road is currently constructed of gravel and the increase in traffic to Whittier Manor, a city-owned cove that is heavily used for recreation, and to Shotgun Cove Road is resulting in excessive wear and deteriorating road conditions that are in continuous need of repair.

Several private residential structures border the Shotgun Cove Road corridor and as the city resumes land sales, the vehicle traffic on Blackstone Road is expected to increase. Additionally as the city continues to grow and develop, recreational use at the city-owned cove is expected to increase as well. The increase in recreational activity will also add to the vehicle traffic on Blackstone Road.

Upon completion of Phase III the City of Whittier will continue pursuing federal funding to resume construction of Shotgun Cove Road. Phase IV of Shotgun Cove Road is already permitted and engineered, but will require construction of a small bridge.

Project Timeline:

The project is projected to commence in September 2011 and expenditures will occur as construction scheduling permits.

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

City of Whittier Public Works Department

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Lester Lunceford
Title: Mayor
Address: 100 Kenai Street
Whittier , Alaska 99693
Phone Number: (907)472-2327
Email: citymanager@whittieralaska.gov

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

SHOTGUN COVE ROAD – PHASE III

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

The State of Alaska deeded to the City approximately 670 acres in Shotgun Cove and Shotgun Cove access corridor for community expansion, with the stipulation that more than 400 acres are to be placed in private hands by 2014. The City has been striving for more than 30 years to build access to and develop those lands. The Shotgun Cove Road project will provide for much needed community development and transportation access to Shotgun Cove and to take advantage of the tremendous tourism, recreation, housing, commercial, and other development opportunities in Whittier and the surrounding Chugach National Forest and Prince William Sound.

The project has been developed under a project agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, FHWA/WFLHD, Chugach Alaska Corporation and the City of Whittier. All of the parties to the agreement have contributed to the project in administration of the project activities performed to date. The projects' environmental document was performed under the direction of the U.S Forest Service. Upon successful completion of the project's environmental documentation the City of Whittier took over administration of the project. In addition to administering the design and construction of the project, the City of Whittier owns and maintains the existing improved roads and will own and maintain the improved facilities as well.

The City is seeking **\$400,000 in State of Alaska funding for FY 2012**, which along with \$9 million in previously-allocated federal funds through the Federal Public Lands Discretionary Program, Corridors and Borders, and SAFETEA-LU, would complete funding for the \$17.5 million cost of the first two phases of the road project. The first 2.7 miles of the project (Phases I and II) are reconstruction of an existing gravel road.

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Phase I of the Shotgun Cove Road project was completed in 2009 and Phase II was started in 2010 and will be completed in 2011. The remaining funds at the completion of Phase II, estimated to be \$3.8 million would be used towards Phase III.

Phase III includes the realignment and paving of Blackstone Road which serves as the approach to Shotgun Cove Road. Blackstone Road also serves as the primary access to Whittier Manor, which is the second largest residential area in Whittier. Blackstone Road is currently constructed of gravel and the increase in traffic to Whittier Manor, a city-owned cove that is heavily used for commercial and recreation, and to Shotgun Cove Road is resulting in excessive wear and deteriorating road conditions that are in continuous need of repair.

Several private residential structures along the Shotgun Cove Road corridor and as the city resumes land sales the vehicle traffic on Blackstone Road is only expected to increase. Additionally as the city continues to grow and develop, recreational use at the city-owned cove is expected to increase as well. The increase in recreational activity will also add to the vehicle traffic on Blackstone Road.

Upon completion of Phase III the City of Whittier will continue pursuing federal funding to resume construction of Shotgun Cove Road. Phase IV of Shotgun Cove Road is already permitted and engineered but will require construction of a small bridge.

Project Timeline:

The project is projected to commence in spring 2011 and expenditures will occur as construction scheduling permits.

The Shotgun Cove Road project is a regional transportation access initiative that will address immediate and future community expansion, boost economic development, and serve as a catalyst for ongoing and future improvements. The project has national and regional significance. The City of Whittier, Alaska, to which the project connects, contains major rail, ferry and international cruise ship terminals. These terminals bring and attract nearly 600,000 U.S. and international visitors per year seeking access to and use of the Chugach National Forest and the waters of Prince William Sound. The project significantly improves public access to Prince William Sound and the Chugach National Forest, the nation's second largest.

The town site of Whittier has very limited developable land, and primary land uses in the current Whittier town site are industrial in nature. This limitation on the future development of Whittier was recognized over thirty years ago when Whittier annexed the Shotgun Cove area as the logical location for an expanded and improved City of Whittier. With the recent completion of the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, visitor traffic increased dramatically to Whittier, but tourism infrastructure in Whittier is insufficient to support the level of visitation. The development of the Shotgun Cove Road will increase access to Chugach National Forest resources in the area for national and international visitors. It will present opportunities to develop additional small boat moorage, allow Whittier to develop a traditional and safer town center, allow Whittier residents to build conventional housing (at the present time most Whittier residents live in a single apartment building remaining from WW II, which also houses most City offices), and allow tourism developers the opportunity to build new visitor facilities to support the visitation possible through the new tunnel and the rail and passenger vessel terminals.

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