

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Saint George****Federal Tax ID: 92-0096064****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

St. George - Harbor Reconstruction

State Funding Requested: \$27,500,000**House District: 37 / S**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Repair and reconstruct harbor.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost: \$30,000,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$2,500,000)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$27,500,000)

Project Deficit: \$0

*Funding Details:**\$2.5 million approved in FY 2012 State of Alaska capital budget.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This project consists of the redesign and repair of the existing harbor on St. George Island. This harbor was never completed, nor was its original construction in conformance with the original design. As a result, the existing harbor is unsafe and generally unusable for even medium size Bering Sea fishing vessels, barges or other commercial waterborne traffic. The actual work associated with this project will include a new harbor design, dredging, and construction and/or expansion of new or existing breakwaters.

A completed, safe harbor is absolutely essential to the survival of the St. George community. There can be no viable long-term economy on St. George without a completed harbor.

If St. George gets a functioning harbor, a sustainable economy will result:

- Construction of a lodge
- Expansion of seafood processing
- Private/public sector ferry between St. George and St. Paul
- Expanded fuel sales
- New small businesses to serve fishing and tourism develop
- Lower food, fuel and consumables cost
- Increased local tax base
- Year-round employment opportunities for local residents
- Reduced social problems

If St. George does not get a functioning harbor, no viable long-term economy can occur:

- Out-migration accelerates
- Poverty increases
- School closes
- Social problems exacerbated
- No inter-island ferry -- must fly through Anchorage to travel the 45 miles between St. George and St. Paul

In addition, St. Paul is iced in most years. This leaves no functioning harbor for the crab fleet during the crab season in the winter. A functioning harbor at St. George would serve as a Port of Refuge, enhancing marine safety and protecting the environment. Two years ago, the F/V Mar-Gun ran aground in the winter on St. George when St. Paul was closed due to ice. A major environmental disaster was narrowly averted (the vessel ran aground adjacent to a fur seal rookery). Had the harbor in St. George been functional, the vessel would have been safely moored instead of jogging at-sea.

Project Timeline:

The initial design phase of the project has commenced. DOT officials will conduct a scoping session in St. George in early February. The design phase should be complete by June, 2013. Construction will commence in 2014 and be complete no later than 2015.

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

State of Alaska for maintenance; the City of St. George for operations.

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