

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Houston****Federal Tax ID: 92-0049711****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

## Houston - Community Impact Assessment

**State Funding Requested: \$350,000****House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

A Community Impact Assessment is needed to address growth issues associated with construction of the Alaska Railroad Extension project.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$350,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$350,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**No prior funding***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Mat-Su borough and the State of Alaska have made significant progress in advancing the development of a new rail link from Point Mackenzie to the main rail line with the preferred alignment approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Board has the northern terminus being within the Houston city limits.

The development of a new rail connection in close proximity to the Parks Highway, a National

Highway System facility and a major north-south route for truck freight, could lead to greater economic development especially for light industrial enterprises. Zoning of the proposed rail connection is currently RA-5 (Low Density Residential Agricultural District) and PH (Parks Highway District) which may generate conflicts between different development interests. Such development could have significant impacts on public services and infrastructure including emergency response, public safety, road maintenance and operation and other important public goods and services.

There is a need for the City of Houston to be prepared to address this probable growth in demand with its potential impacts on taxpayers and the City's fiscal health.

The Community Impact Assessment would ensure a systematic, interdisciplinary approach will be used to evaluate the social, economic and environmental impacts of highway and railroad projects in conjunction with the purpose and need for the project, as well as applicable engineering and safety requirements.

The Community Impact Assessment would help determine economic, social, and environmental effects such as:

- oair, noise and water pollution

- oestruction or disruption of man-made resources

- odeclining productivity of fish streams

- oinadequate outdoor recreation infrastructure

community cohesion, and availability of public facilities and services  
 adverse development effects, and tax and property value losses; injurious displacement of people and businesses  
 disruption of desirable community and regional growth,  
 And a Community Impact Assessment would consider the Houston Comprehensive Plan, provide for growth, protect  
 Houston's unique character, encourage concentrated commercial development, and allow for the efficient provision of  
 community infrastructure.

**Project Timeline:**

The Community Impact Assessment would occur within a period of 6 months to a year.

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

City Of Houston

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Sonya Dukes  
 Title: City Clerk  
 Address: 13878 W. Armstrong Rd.  
 Houston, Alaska 99694  
 Phone Number: (907)892-6869  
 Email: sdukes@houston-ak.gov

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

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**HOUSTON, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 12-20(S)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE FY 2014  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND LISTING ITS PRIORITIES.**

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WHEREAS, the City of Houston is planning for FY 2014 capital improvements as part of its 5 year capital improvement program; and

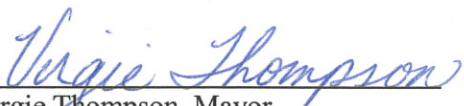
WHEREAS, the City seeks support from the State of Alaska Legislature to meet its capital improvement needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Houston City Council that the following projects are hereby identified as priorities for Fiscal Year 2014.

- Cheri Lake Drive Improvements
- Substandard Road Upgrades
- Emergency services equipment
- Asphalt 4.0 miles of bus routes
- Community/ Municipal Building with leased space Phase 1
- Fire Station 9-2
- Meadowview Roads Upgrade Phase 1
- Fire Training Facility
- Fire Engine for Station 9-2
- Community Impact Assessment

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Houston City Council this 10th day of January, 2013.

**THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA**

  
Virgie Thompson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Sonya Dukes, City Clerk

