

# United States Senate

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May 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
United States Senate

The Honorable Christopher Bond  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Murray, and Ranking Member Bond:

As you prepare the FY10 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies funding bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects in my state:

**Project:** Rural Alaska Lighting Program

**Amount Requested:** \$3,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** State of Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FAA

**Purpose:** This funding would provide runway lighting and Precision Approach Path Indicators/Runway End Identifier Lights. This is an ongoing effort to provide 24-hour access for remote Alaskan communities to medical facilities. None of these communities are accessible by road and thus, almost entirely rely on aviation for access. None of these airports currently have an operable permanent airport lighting system.

**Project:** Akutan Airport Project

**Amount Requested:** \$9,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Akutan, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The funding would construct a new airport on Akun Island. Akutan is currently served by the World War II vintage float plane, the Grumman Goose. The air carrier has been operating air service under an FAA waiver. The FAA completed an Environmental Assessment this past year and has issued a Record of Decision recommending that the project go forward. The project has received significant non-federal matching funds.

**Project:** Arterial Road and Bridge Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Mat-Su Borough lacks a well developed arterial road network. In addition, three of the top five most dangerous roads in Alaska are located in the Borough; these proposed projects will improve traffic safety along these roads. These projects consists of constructing four new arterials, upgrading/extending three existing arterials, and providing separated pathways. These projects will provide significant congestion relief thereby improving travel times and traffic safety.

**Project:** Bethel Dust Control Project

**Amount Requested:** \$300,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Bethel, AK

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Federal funding would be used to purchase calcium chloride and crushed gravel to apply on dirt roads. The application of calcium chloride, water, and gravel will help harden the predominantly sand roads in Bethel. This project will reduce the amount of airborne dust in Bethel and improve the health of the community

**Project:** City of Old Harbor Municipal Dock Construction Project

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Old Harbor, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Old Harbor Municipal dock will replace a 35-year old dock that is unsafe, and does not provided needed depth or infrastructure for use by the Alaska marine highway, freight service, United States Coast Guard, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**Project:** Denali Access Program

**Amount Requested:** \$15,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Denali Commission

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** SAFETEA-LU authorized \$15 million annually for the Denali Access System to support planning, design, engineering, and construction of road and other surface transportation projects. \$5.7 million was appropriated in FY09. The President's budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Denali Access System.

**Project:** FNSB Road and Bridge Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$4,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Wendell Street bridge is in disrepair and some of the streetlights that are attached to the concrete on the deck have fallen into the river or had to be removed because of the weakened concrete. The sidewalks on the Bridge are not ADA compliant and need upgrading as well.

**Project:** Girdwood Nordic Trail System

**Amount Requested:** \$600,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Girdwood, AK

**Agency, Account:** FHWA-Recreational Trails Account

**Purpose:** This project would construct 20 kilometers of Nordic multi-use trails within the Girdwood Valley. These trails would be ski-only in winter and multi-use in the spring, summer, and fall. This trail system meets all FIS standards to accommodate competition at the national and international level.

**Project:** Juneau Airport MALSR runway lighting

**Amount Requested:** \$4,160,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City and Borough of Juneau, AK

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** Funding is requested to purchase and install runway approach lighting system for runway 26. This lighting system, MALSR- Medium Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Alignment Lights, will increase safety and result in cost savings for avoided diversions.

**Project:** Kenai Spur Highway, Intersection Upgrades

**Amount Requested:** \$3,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Kenai, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** This project would re-construct five existing intersections on the Kenai Spur Highway between the Cities of Kenai and Soldotna. Traffic counts are steadily increasing and the severity of accidents on this two lane highway are also increasing.

**Project:** Main Street Couplet

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Wasilla, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Main Street Couplet project will convert Main Street into a one-way couplet with Talkeetna Street & Yenlo Street. This project is part of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to reduce severe congestion into downtown Wasilla.

**Project:** Replacement and Rehabilitation of Municipal Bridges and Trestles

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Ketchikan, AK

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** Five of Ketchikan's seventeen bridges have been closed or weight restricted due to serious structural deterioration.

**Project:** Seward Road Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Seward, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The funding would be used to pave many local road surfaces, reconstruct new sidewalks, and improve roadway drainage systems. The existing driving surfaces of the majority of the city roads have deteriorated to a point that repaving is the only solution.

**Project:** Tok River Bridge Replacement

**Amount Requested:** \$11,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** State of Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The Tok River Bridge has exceeded its design life by 14-years and is considered functionally obsolete by the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, an improved bridge will be necessary in order to move construction parts for the Alaska natural gas pipeline, which is an infrastructure project of national importance.

**Project:** Wrangell road improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Wrangell, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FHWA

**Purpose:** The funding for this project would go toward paving, repair, sidewalk and utility construction of Cassiar Street.

**Project:** Anchorage Ship Creek Intermodal Facility

**Amount Requested:** \$3,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Alaska Railroad Corporation, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** FTA

**Purpose:** These funds will begin the rehabilitation of the current Anchorage Depot to better serve passengers and eventually commuter rail users. The Anchorage Ship Creek Intermodal facility currently serves over 128,000 passengers annually.

**Project:** Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) – Domestic Violence Shelter

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Abused Women's Aid in Crisis; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds will ensure that the existing AWAIC facility remains an open and safe haven for victims of domestic violence by funding needed structural repairs.

**Project:** City of Bethel Public Safety Building

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Bethel, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds would pay for the construction of a new Bethel Public Safety building to house the Bethel Fire Department and Bethel Police Department, replacing severely deteriorated and aged facilities.

**Project:** Community Recreational Enhancements

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Kincaid Project Group; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds will pay for facilities improvements for Anchorage. These enhancements will provide economic stimulus to the area by allowing Anchorage to host regional, national and international events year-round. Federal funding of this project will put construction crews to work immediately, generate an economic stimulus for the Alaskan economy, and help with job retention in the service industry.

**Project:** Cordova Center

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Cordova, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** The City of Cordova seeks federal funding to construct a new multi-use economic development building. The building will house multiple federal agencies and has secured a substantial amount of non-federal funding for the project.

**Project:** Covenant House Alaska Crisis Center

**Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Covenant House Alaska (CHA); Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds will help relocate CHA's Crisis Center to help accommodate a 58 percent increase in daily census over the past 3 years. The Crisis Center is operating at its structural capacity while homelessness is growing among youth in Anchorage.

**Project:** Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center and Facility

**Amount Requested:** \$3,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Alaska Works Partnership, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** The requested funding would be used for the final engineering, design, and construction of the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center. This center will help ensure that a trained, qualified workforce is available to meet the workforce demands of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project, as described in Sec. 113(a)(1)(B) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act.

**Project:** Jesse Lee Leadership Residential Charter School

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Alaska Community Foundation; Seward, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds would help restore a dilapidated building to serve as a residential charter leadership school for high-school youth. The school will utilize competency-based educational techniques about the sciences, mathematics, politics, technology and the humanities as well as vocational skills.

**Project:** Lower Yukon School District – Teacher Housing

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Lower Yukon School District (LYSD), Alaska

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** The requested funds would be used to replace outdated housing and to construct the additional housing that will be required in the Lower Yukon School District over the next 5

years. Many of the housing units require replacement, and in the past 4 years the LYSD has replaced 42 teacher housing units. Over the next 5 years, 71 units will need to be replaced.

**Project:** Mountain View Blighted Properties

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Municipality of Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** The requested funds would be used to develop blighted properties in Mountain View. This project is a necessary next step in the revitalization of Mountain View and in establishing a vibrant, vital neighborhood.

**Project:** Mult-Disciplinary Combined Facility for the Copper River Native Association

**Amount Requested:** \$5,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Cantwell, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** The Copper River Native Association is in dire need of a new health clinic, tribal offices, and employment center. Their proposed multi-disciplinary building would provide: tribal services and employment training, behavioral health and dental services, 6 assisted living units for disabled and elderly, 9-10 provider housing units, elder food service for 20-30 people/day, and a cultural center to preserve and sustain the culture. The building will serve as a facility for governmental and health services in a single setting.

**Project:** Ouzinkie Replacement Dock Project

**Amount Requested:** \$4,732,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Ouzinkie, Alaska

**Agency, Account:** HUD-EDI

**Purpose:** Replace the badly deteriorated 45-year-old and dysfunctional wood pile and timber dock with a new dock built with rock and steel bulkheads to assure continued transportation for the community.

**Project:** Palmer Senior Center

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Palmer Senior Citizens Center; Palmer, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds would help pay for the replacement of the Palmer Senior Center. The senior population in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is rapidly increasing and is expected to triple by 2030. The current facility is neither safe nor suitable to provide the additional services needed for seniors to live independently.

**Project:** Port of Bristol Bay Expansion Project

**Amount Requested:** \$3,100,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Bristol Bay Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD-EDI

**Purpose:** Phase one of the Port of Bristol Bay expansion project would expand the 27 year old Port of Bristol Bay dock by constructing a sheet pile dock addition next to the existing pile concrete dock.

**Project:** Raven's Way Biorka Island Building Replacement

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), Sitka, AK

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** This project includes both design and construction of facilities to replace structures scheduled for demolition on Biorka Island. These facilities are used by the SEARHC Raven's Way Program as a component of their youth substance abuse treatment. Funding is required to complete the design and construction of new buildings to support continued operation of the program on Biorka Island.

**Project:** Tundra Women's Coalition, Facility

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Tundra Women's Coalition

**Agency, Account:** HUD, EDI

**Purpose:** These funds would pay for the construction of a new facility to provide emergency shelter, outreach, and other programming-related to serving victims of family and sexual violence throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Program elements include emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, legal advocacy, community outreach, limited homeless assistance, transitional housing, sexual assault advocacy, and a children's advocacy program called the Children's Center.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to working with you as the Committee develops this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McDonnell from my staff by phone at (202) 224-9306 (direct) or via email at [elizabeth\\_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:elizabeth_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator