

Presented By:
Port Director
Action Taken:
Yes 4
No 0
Abstain 0

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-24-02-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NOME TO APPLY FOR AND PARTICIPATE IN THE USDOT RAISE DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FUNDING OF THE PORT OF NOME LOCAL SERVICE FACILITIES DESIGN & ENGINEERING – PHASES II & III

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) administers the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, which supports investments in the planning and/or construction of surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact, with at least \$75M awarded to eligible design projects, \$15M of which seeks to directly benefit areas of persistent poverty, or historically disadvantaged communities; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Nome owns the Port & Harbor, which serves as the regional maritime hub facility for over fifty (50) western Alaska communities, transshipping fuel, cargo and gravel throughout the region during the ice-free season, serving as the critical transportation network link that enables equipment, fuel, building supplies, and basic life-sustaining necessities to be delivered to the region's rural network, and the only publicly-owned coastal maritime infrastructure north of the Aleutians for the refueling and resupply of Arctic vessels that has grown exponentially since 2012, as demonstrated in the port's vessel traffic statistics; and,

WHEREAS, the USACE performed multiple Arctic port studies to determine the best site to serve as the first Arctic Deep Draft Port for the nation, identifying Nome as the most practical and cost-efficient location that will further facilitate resource development, search and rescue response, protection of the marine environment, and to provide a practical Arctic location for strategic defense of the country; and,

WHEREAS, the USACE recently completed the Nome Modifications Feasibility Study, which resulted in a Signed Chief's Report submitted to the 116th Congress as part of the WRDA 2020 legislation, and the project was authorized through the FY2021 Omnibus Consolidations Appropriations Act; and,

WHEREAS, the City executed an Agreement with the USACE Alaska District for Phases II and III of a Preconstruction, Engineering & Design (PED) covering 100% the Local Service Facilities (LSF), for docks, roads and utilities, which are required to be funded by the non-federal sponsor; and,


WHEREAS, the City has qualified engineering firms that have just completed Phase I design of the LSF's, and are now pursuing RAISE funds to support design of Phases II and III; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome Common Council supports application to the USDOT RAISE Grant Program with a match of up to twenty (20) percent for the design and engineering of Phases II and III of the Local Service Facilities associated with the Arctic Deep Draft Port Modifications Project, and agrees, subject to selection by USDOT, to enter into an agreement with USDOT for a RAISE Discretionary Grant.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 26th day of February 2024.


JOHN K. HANDELAND, Mayor

ATTEST:



JEREMY JACOBSON, Clerk
^
Deputy

Memo

TO: Mayor John Handeland & Nome Common Council
FROM: Jim West, Chairman – Nome Port Commission *JWz*
THRU: Glenn Steckman - City Manager
DATE: 02/21/2024
RE: 2024 USDOT RAISE Grant Program – Local Service Facilities Engineering and Design

The following motion was passed by the Nome Port Commission at their Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

1. Moved by C. McLarty, and seconded by C. Sheffield, that the following motion be approved:
 - **MOTION:** Recommend the Nome Common Council authorize making application to the 2024 USDOT RAISE Grant Program for funds to complete engineering and design of the local service facilities, as part of the Army Corps' Arctic Deep Draft Port Project construction.

AT THE ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler, West, McCann, Lean
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion on this motion is reflected in the minutes of the February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting.

**PORT OF NOME
LOCAL SERVICE FACILITIES DESIGN & ENGINEERING GRANT
FUNDING STRATEGY**

AGENCY	U.S. Department of Transportation
PROGRAM	RAISE Grants (Rebuilding American Infrastructure w/Sustainability & Equity)
DESCRIPTION	Funding Surface Transportation Projects having Significant Local/Regional Impact
FUNDING	\$1.5B Total – 50% to Rural Projects (Project Awards of no Min/\$25M Max)
ELIGIBILITY	State, local & tribal governments (port infrastructure investment)
FED SHARE	Min 80% (Secretary may elect go fund up to 100% for rural projects)
DEADLINE	February 28, 2024 – 11:59:00 PM (EST)
PROJECT	PORT OF NOME LOCAL SERVICE FACILITIES DESIGN & ENGINEERING PLANNING GRANT
APPLICANT	CITY OF NOME (up to 20% cost-share or \$926K)
\$\$ REQUEST	\$3.704M

Primary Selection Criteria:

Safety
Environmental Sustainability
Quality of Life
Mobility and Community Connectivity

Secondary Selection Criteria:

Economic Competitiveness
State of Good Repair
Partnerships and Collaboration
Innovation

Program Requirements:

Climate Change and Environmental Justice Impact Consideration
Racial Equity and Barriers to Opportunity

PORT OF NOME LOCAL SERVICE FACILITIES DESIGN & ENGINEERING – PROJECT PURPOSE:

Throughout the last 10 years, the City of Nome has worked diligently with the Corps of Engineers Alaska District to investigate demand and gauge need for enhanced maritime facilities in the Arctic. Although this effort has frequently been multi-faceted, the predominant purposes have been to prevent loss of life at sea, reduce elevated shipping costs, minimize impacts to the marine environment, and protect U.S. national security interests in Arctic waters. As more and more vessels transit this region each ice-free season, it is clear that marine shipping, research activity and resource development continue in an upward trend, with few signs of slowing down or reversing course. As the changes in climate accelerate to thin out multi-year ice, the geopolitical stage seems to change just as quickly, with more countries displaying efforts to pursue interests in the region whether or not they are anywhere close to the Arctic.

These significant changes resulted in several completed navigation studies by the USACE, the latest of which has identified Nome as the most practical and cost-effective location to develop a deep-water port in the U.S. Arctic, produced a signed Chief’s Report, and received authorization from the 117th

Congress to design and construct an Arctic Deep Draft Port at Nome. The City executed a cost-share agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Preconstruction, Engineering & Design (PED) of the Port of Nome Port Modifications Project that began in July 2021. Design costs consist of all phases of both the General Navigation Features (GNF), as well as the Local Service Facilities (LSF).

Phase 1 design is now complete and the City’s cost-share funded through a combination of state and port funds. The Phase 1 solicitation package is scheduled for release by the USACE on 26 February 2024. The City is now obligated to fund 100% design/engineering of Phases II and III of the project LSF’s. These elements consist of docks, bridge, roads and utilities, and are performed parallel to the GNF efforts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project Development Team (PDT), comprised of personnel from the Alaska District, Bristol Engineering, PND Engineers, CRW Engineering, NJUS, Port Commission and Port staff, with meetings typical bi-monthly (during design) to discuss questions on project integration.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Total ROM Estimated LSF Design Costs	\$4,630,000
Federal Funding Requested	3,704,000
City Contribution (Cash Match)	926,000
Other Contribution	0
Total Funds	\$4,630,000

REQUEST:

Support is requested from the Nome Common Council for the Port to apply to the USDOT RAISE grant program to fund a minimum of 80%* of the design costs for Phases II & III of the Local Service Facilities associated with the Nome Port Modifications Project and Arctic Port Expansion.

*Secretary can choose to fund up to 100% for rural project costs.