

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

TOP PRIORITIES

This is what the lobbyist, mayor and Assembly leadership will focus their efforts on:

- **Port of Alaska Modernization Project**
 - Updates since 2023 program: Thank you for \$200M State investment; PCT opened in summer 2023; port tariff surcharge to restructure debt and basis of design for Term. 1 approved in July; productive visit with U.S. DOT Secretary Buttigieg; requested cost analysis for Term. 2, anticipated decision in late 2023 or early 2024.
 - Existing/prior ask: \$280M CIP request, US Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements
 - TBD: Whether and how to address SB 155 (Port Authority bill)
- **Increasing Supply of Housing and Addressing Homelessness**
 - Anchorage is working to address our overall housing shortage and also compassionately housing people experiencing homelessness – but we can't do it alone. Anchorage needs help from the State and federal government.
 - Updates since 2023 program: Reference AR 2023-176; Include success stories from this year. Muni investments in housing, local solutions to housing crisis such as land use regulations, incentives; investment in hotel conversions and other projects; emergency cold weather shelter using one-time funding. Include updated data on total experiencing homelessness, unsheltered, by population (adult, veteran, family, youth).
 - Existing/prior ask: Funding to Alaska Housing Trust to leverage to create more housing; funding for emergency shelter (capital, operations).
 - TBD: May include capital funding for housing projects, directing infrastructure spending to support economic development and infill redevelopment (especially housing), emergency shelter capital and/or operations funding.
- **Crisis Now/Mental Health**
 - Updates since 2023 program: we are doing everything we can as a city, but this is a bigger issue; State is responsible for providing/funding mental health services statewide; Muni continues to invest in Crisis Now including funding for mental health first responders, grant to Providence for Crisis Stabilization Facility, etc. Working to ensure local emergency response

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

services focused on mental health needs. Have funded mental health in schools, support ASD continue to prioritizing this need.

- Existing/prior ask: Crisis Now system funding (passed by Leg. but vetoed).
 - TBD: Ask for veto override of critical Crisis Now funding. Confer with mental health experts and advocates for how to support system strengthening: substance misuse treatment, Crisis Now implementation, how API fits into system, community-based services, grant funding for services Medicaid does not cover, mental health services in schools. Also include prelim. plan for Golden Lion by 2025, if there is funding ask??
 - **(Potential area) Energy Security – is this a top-level ask?**
 - Update since 2023: Continued focus of discussion to address expected gas supply shortage in Cook Inlet. Support Chugach Electric & utilities in seeking solutions.
 - Existing/prior ask: (?)
 - TBD: Solutions to ensure affordable and reliable supply, specifics unknown
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ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL-WIDE PRIORITIES

Each item on this list needs a champion from Assembly or Mayor. Legislative services will help coordinate communications and efforts from the Assembly members, in collaboration with Mayor's team. Lobbyist will keep an eye out on these issues and alert MOA team for opportunities. Assembly can pass resolutions of support on these this fall.

Funding Requests

- **Community Assistance Program:** restore the \$30M vetoed by Governor in 2023 and make a full contribution for 2024 ("local revenue-sharing" - may be addressed in an supplemental budget. Partner with AML)
- **Defined Benefits for public employees:** create and fund a defined benefit option for state employee retirement. Support SB 88 specifically, or general concept, consistent with past Assembly action.
- **Increase public school funding:** SB 52 is current proposal for BSA increase. Could request veto override for one-time BSA funding. Working group of Assembly and School Board will be preparing resolution highlighting detrimental impacts of current Foundation Formula & BSA, recommend changes. (Item planned for 12-8-23 joint meeting.)

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

- **Merrill Field:** \$10M state match for federal capital funds for airport improvements, which will help Merrill Field with future expansion and better utilization of assets for economic development.
- **Road Safety Corridors:** Renew our existing/prior ask. create a policy and project to identify State of Alaska high traffic roads within the Municipality of Anchorage have a high incidence of vehicle collisions and identify priorities for designation as safety corridors through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and fund a grant of \$500,000 to the Municipality for data collection and enforcement. Re-design and reconstruction of these key corridors within the Municipality will be considerable undertakings in both time and funding. This is a preliminary step, with long term effects of using safety corridors to gather data and reduce speeds anticipated to result in reduced vehicle and pedestrian collisions and improve overall safety.

Statutory and Policy Requests

- **Election reform:** pass an election reform bill that addresses Anchorage's concerns with voter registration (SB 138 is in play)
- **Blight properties and taxes:** Pass SB 77 regarding municipal tax exemptions for new development and taxing blight properties

Other Potential Muni-wide Priorities to include above:

- From 2023 Legislative Program: PAC capital \$, Wildfire protection \$, involuntary civil commitments (SB 53), Wildfire protection – what is the specific ask? Anchorage received federal grant funding.

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

These items will be championed by individual Assembly members in coordination with Department heads. Legislative services will provide basic support, such as a fact sheet, but it is ultimately the members' responsibility to advocate for these. Lobbyist will keep an eye out on these issues and alert MOA team for opportunities. Process to ID projects:

- **Seek community input** – review community council surveys, put out press releases to announce Assembly worksessions to develop project lists to see if any projects rise up in the community
- What are the **Administration's** priorities?

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

- **Utilities and departments** will have priorities – how do we narrow down what goes in the legislative program?
- **Assembly** input – ask each member to develop top 5 list for their district that they can advocate for in bonds, state and federal requests over next few years

Need to sort by legislative districts after the list is complete. Make sure that members include the legislative districts for each project:

Assembly District 1 - North Anchorage

- List here

Assembly District 2 – JBER, Chugiak and Eagle River

- List here

Assembly District 3 – West Anchorage

- Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and Bluff Erosion at Point Woronzof, on State of Alaska-owned land at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) [Turnagain CC]
- Pedestrian Crossings/Traffic Calming: Minnesota Boulevard from International to Northern Lights Boulevard [Spenard CC]
- Raspberry Rd Expansion – Sand Lake Rd to Jewel Lake Rd [Sand Lake CC]
- Dimond Blvd Pedestrian and Landscaping Improvements – Jewel Lake Rd to Old Seward Hwy [Bayshore/Klatt CC]
- Sand Lake Regional Water Access Project [2023 Leg. program] – possibly was addressed if it was the Sand Hill project, was already funded.

Assembly District 4 - Midtown

- Quinhagak St Upgrade - E Dowling Rd to Askeland Dr (21-13)
- 46th Ave Area Street Light Improvements - Folker St to Piper St (23-01)
- 42nd Ave Upgrade - Lake Otis Pkwy to Florina St (18-06)
- Folker St Upgrade - 42nd Ave to Tudor Rd
- 41st Ave Upgrade - Piper St to Dale St

Assembly District 5 – East Anchorage

- District 21 & 20: Tudor curve to Glenn traffic calming on Muldoon corridor
- District 12, 20, 21: Fire egress on military boundary for Campbell airstrip and northeast residents

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

- District 20 & 21: Northeast mixed-use transit/community hub, potentially with library and/or recreation center
- District 18: 6th Avenue at Boniface Separated East and west-bound left turn lane and improved pedestrian crossing
- District 20 & 21: East Anchorage JBER Perimeter trail
- District 19: UAA Dr. Pedestrian Undercrossing
- District 19 & 13: Campbell creek Trail- separated grade crossing @lake Otis
- District 19: Northern Lights Blvd at Bragaw St. Pedestrian Crossing improvements
- District 19, 20, 21: Russian Jack Springs Park upgrades to deteriorated trails and facilities

Assembly District 6 – South Anchorage, Turnagain Arm and Girdwood

- Old Klatt Road Upgrade – Timberland Dr to Victor Rd [Bayshore/Klatt CC, D6]
- List here

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

These items will be championed by individual Departments. There might be some coordination between Admin, Assembly and Lobbyist on these, but most will require individual departments/supporters to organize their own advocacy. But, by putting it all on one list, we show unity as a municipality. These are the projects listed in the Draft 2024 Capital Improvement Budget:

Maintenance & Operations - \$29.585M

- AFD Vehicle Maintenance Facility Upgrades
- Upgrades to recreational and civic facilities - Anchorage Golf Course, Sullivan, Ben Boeke and Dempsey Arenas, Dena'ina Center, Eagan Center, Performing Arts Center
- Anchorage Historical Properties Renovations
- Stormwater Maintenance Equipment
- Deteriorated properties remediation
- Safety upgrades to municipal facilities – safety & code upgrades, major municipal facility fire alarm system panel replacement, roof replacements

Project Management & Engineering - \$189.1M

2024 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT IDEAS

- Pedestrian and bike safety and crossing improvements, traffic calming and ADA upgrades - areawide
- Road reconstruction, upgrades and resurfacing – areawide
- CBERRRSA – residential pavement rehabilitation and snow storage site development
- Chugach State Park Access Improvements
- Road and drainage studies, plans and rehabilitation

Public Works Administration - \$3M

- Mt. Iliamna School Demolition (\$3M)

Traffic Engineering - \$2M

- School zone safety (\$1M)
- Traffic calming and safety improvements (\$1M)

Port of Alaska - \$280M

- US Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements

AWWU

- No projects listed in 2024 CIB – they are focusing on federal requests