Regional Infrastructure Planning Workshop
Welcome and Introductions

**Goals**

- Collaborative approach to maximizing the benefits that could come to Alaska from the IIJA
- Work within and across regions to identify barriers, priorities, and solutions
- Foster opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration, including between local and Tribal governments
- Anticipate problem-solving needs and mechanisms to reduce costs, overcome challenges, and make the most of this investment
Community Planning and Infrastructure Management

- Community Planning and Prioritization
- Grant Development and Response
- Grant Award, Partnerships, and Match
- Procurement and Workforce
- Project Management
- Grant Reporting and Outcomes
- Maintenance and Operations
- Asset Management and Sustainability
Grant Symposium Takeaways

Takeaways

- The scale and scope of the infrastructure package is immense and overwhelming
- Urgency can be spread across at least the next five years; implementation over the next ten
- Many federal agencies are still in the midst of developing NOFOs and programs
- There are new criteria to many programs, which include equity, sustainability, new technologies, etc.
- Federal agencies have and will ramp up technical assistance
- The State of Alaska will have some role in supporting communities through this process
Transportation

- Transportation is by far the biggest category of funding
- The bulk of that funding includes increases to traditional programs
- DOT&PF will scale up outreach and other efforts to work through priorities, including through the STIP
- Competitive programs like RAISE, INFRA, PIDP, etc. will need an intense amount of project development and grant writing
- Work to identify projects being submitted, proposed, granted, and ways for State support
- Overcome match and logistics challenges
**Broadband**

- Established processes for project development, and clear agency involvement
- NTIA, FCC, and USDA’s ReConnect program will have primary roles
- State will have role in managing NTIA’s State allocation, with firm guidelines for distribution
- Tribes may have fairly unrestricted allocation, with potentially more flexibility
- State will need mapping and plan in place, first
- Grant-making will need processes established, and Tribes may want to plan similar types of processes for project development
- Focus on unserved and underserved regions and communities
Water and Sewer

• By far the clearest distribution process – work from IHS list of unserved and underserved communities
• Funding through IHS to ANTHC and separately from federal to DEC
• DEC programs include Village Safe Water and current and new revolving loan funds
• State VSW may be crucial for non-federal match
• Work toward strengthening sustainability measures – management of maintenance and operations, and address affordability
• New programs for emerging contaminants and PFAS to be set up
Resilience

- Includes both responses to climate change and natural hazards, as well as pollution prevention and remediation
- Managed through both EPA and Dept. of the Interior
- May be combination of competitive and directed funding
- There may be a lot of federal activity but less room for direct community engagement or response
- The scale of the issues and complexity of response needed will be shaped by who has capacity
- Work toward coordinated regional communications with federal agencies
Energy and Power

• A lot of this will be through Dept. of Energy, and the Arctic Energy Office may play a crucial role in Alaska
• Alaska Energy Authority will be responsible for statewide EV planning
• University may have a role in responding to competitive research
• Need for grid buildout, potentially, to support other infrastructure investments
• Few NOFOs out for this yet
Break until 10:30 AM

Use your colored pins to indicate infrastructure priorities in the maps provided
Planning for Regional Infrastructure Priorities
Regional Infrastructure Small Group Discussion

• Break out into region:
  • Northern and Interior
  • Western and Central
  • Southwest and Southeast

• Then, breakout into color-coded BIL “buckets:”

- Resilience
- Energy & Power
- Broadband
- Water & Sewer

and

- Transportation

• If you’re a statewide organization, feel free to move around and/or help out
• We’ll have a few rotations, so you can move to other priorities as we go
Discussion Guide

Capture all notes on paper provided

You don’t have to agree, or negotiate, and you can contribute individually and as a group

• What are priorities of region – by community or type of challenge?
• What are hurdles to addressing these priorities?
• Who is working in the region that can help overcome them?
Lunch on Your Own

Reconvene at 1:00 PM for continued Regional Collaboration
Regional Collaboration
Regional Collaboration Small Group Discussion

- Break out into region:
  - Northern + Interior
  - Western + Central
  - Southwest + Southeast

- Anticipating challenges
- Fostering partnerships
- Providing state and federal agencies input
Challenges and Opportunities

• Maintenance and Operations – What needs to be done now to improve? On the other side of this investment, what does this look like? How can we prepare?

• Procurement Planning – Are there statewide or regional approaches to procurement that could be considered? How to know and who could organize?

• Intergovernmental Collaboration – How do we encourage municipal and Tribal collaboration within communities? How do local and Tribal governments work more closely with the State?

• Match Requirements – What are match requirements that might keep you from applying for a grant? Where do you turn for help with match?

• Use color-coded sticky notes to refer to the particular “buckets” of infrastructure programs/funding:

  Resilience  Energy & Power  Broadband  Water & Sewer  and  Transportation
Break and Reconvene at 3:00 PM

In the room:
Rasmuson Foundation’s Broadband Initiative
Plenary Report Out

What did you learn?
What surprised you?
What will you do when you get home?
What do you need?
Closing Statements

AFN and AML
Denali Commission and ANTHC
DOT&PF and DEC
Federal agencies
Thank you for attending!

Here are resources & ways to keep these conversations going:

• AKFederalFunding.org - news, grant announcements, resources, and trainings/events
• Sign up for newsletter – biweekly communications
• Build.gov
• DOT&PF IIJA site
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