

Alaska Infrastructure Symposium

REGIONAL PLANNING, GRANT TRAINING, AND WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Regional Infrastructure Planning Workshop



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Welcome and Introductions

Goals

- Collaborative approach to maximizing the benefits that could come to Alaska from the IJA
- 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Break until 10:30 AM

Use your colored pins to indicate infrastructure priorities in the maps provided

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Planning for Regional Infrastructure Priorities

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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

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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?

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Lunch on Your Own

Reconvene at 1:00 PM
for continued
Regional Collaboration

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Regional Collaboration

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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

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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

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Break and Reconvene at 3:00 PM

In the room:

**Rasmuson Foundation's
Broadband Initiative**

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Plenary Report Out

What did you learn?

What surprised you?

What will you do when you get home?

What do you need?

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Closing Statements

AFN and AML

Denali Commission and ANTHC

DOT&PF and DEC

Federal agencies

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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 IJA site](#)

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