

ALASKA  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

March  
2024

# Leaning Local

Strengthening Local Governments

Infrastructure  
Symposium

Nils  
Andreassen

## Rep. Mary Peltola

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I'm sorry I couldn't make it today, but luckily, I have some updates from Congress for our oceans, land, and air.

Recently, I introduced the PORT Act, which would make it easier to get federal funds to our ports and more shovels in the dirt. There are large pots of federal money from legislation like the bipartisan infrastructure law and the inflation reduction act that are tied up right now. And in Alaska, we import so much— my bill would streamline permitting to get projects moving faster, decreasing shipping costs for all Alaskans.

In many parts of our state, our marine highway is a lifeline between our communities. My bill would be a helpful addition to processing the large grants the federal government has awarded our essential marine highway system!

And in the air, we're seeing new funds awarded to Alaskan communities! Airport Improvement Program Grants from the last 8 months have dedicated nearly \$100 million to new runways, improved taxiways, and better safety features that make the 82% of Alaskan communities that are only accessible via air more efficient and safe to travel to. Funds have already made it to Anchorage, Ketchikan, Wasilla, Shishmaref, and Mekoryuk!

As Vice-Ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee, I've been keeping a close eye on the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Authority, or FAA. Alaskans rely on flying more than anyone else in the country, and many of our state's priorities—like reliable infrastructure and weather monitoring—need to be included in this bill. I'm working to make sure that happens.

Finally, on land: the State Transportation Improvement Program, known as STIP just received partial approval from the Federal Highway Administration. After the plan was initially rejected, it was important to stay engaged with the US DOT in order to not miss out on this important funding. I spoke with Transportation Secretary Buttigieg about the importance the STIP has for Alaska and how we needed to find a way to get the plan approved. I'm glad that we could work together to get this partial approval and work toward making our roads better for Alaskan drivers over the next several years.

Thank you again for inviting me to be with you today, and for welcoming my staff in my place!

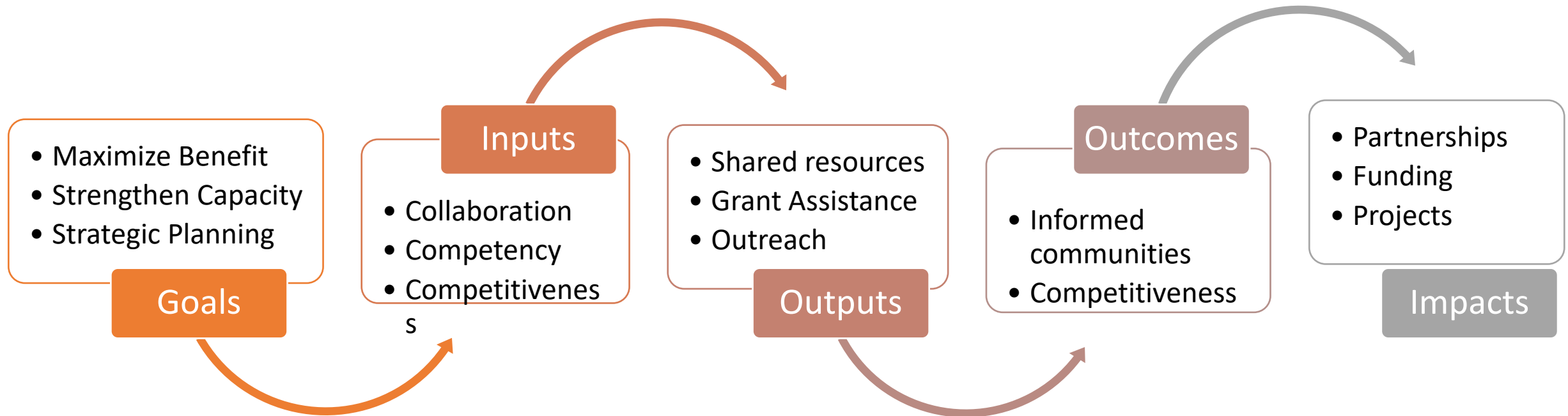
I wish you all the best in discussing our state's infrastructure shortfalls, opportunities, and goals. Hope to see you all soon!"

## M-24-11 Reducing Burden in the Administration of Federal Financial Assistance

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- Implement revisions by October 1, 2024
- Flexibility for Tribal nations
- Federal Program Inventory
- BABA waivers – identify supply chain gaps.
- Subrecipient reporting technical assistance and support.
- Raising the Single Audit threshold from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 per fiscal year.
- 2 CFR 200.204 will make plain language a requirement. "To the extent possible, the Federal agency should communicate opportunities to the public in plain language to ensure the announcement is accessible to diverse communities of eligible applicants, including underserved communities. The Federal agency should also make efforts to limit the length and complexity of the announcement and only include the information that is necessary for the effective communication of the program objectives."

## Infrastructure Logic Model



# 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

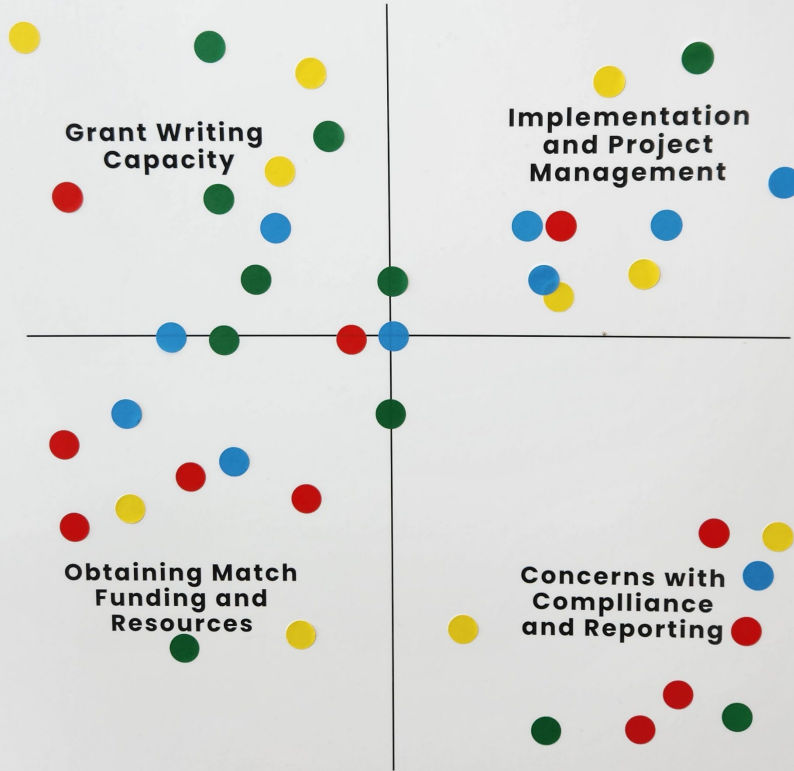
Maintenance and Operations

Asset Management and Sustainability



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# WHAT ARE YOUR CHALLENGES IN PURSUING GRANTS?



With federal funding and infrastructure investment, Alaska's State, local, and Tribal governments have the opportunity to make formative change and address incredible need.

[www.akfederalfunding.org](http://www.akfederalfunding.org)





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# 2024 Alaska Rural Energy Conference

October 2-4 | Westmark, Fairbanks

Join the conversation with communities and experts from around the state working together on energy projects, ideas, and solutions for Alaska's rural communities.



Southeast Conference



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