MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
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Date: January 7, 2009

To: Mayor and Assembly Members

From: Elizabeth A. Gray, Assistant Borough Manager

Subject: Manager's Report for the week ending January 2, 2009

Mat-Su College Paramedics Program Partnership: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough) and the Matanuska-Susitna College (Mat-Su College) have been working closely together to establish a much needed paramedic training and degree program at the college. This cooperative effort has involved Mat-Su College, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), Anchorage Fire Department, Borough Department of Emergency Services, and Borough Economic Development representatives. As part of this effort, the Borough provided funding to hire a paramedic instructor/professor to initiate the program. Following a lengthy search, a paramedic program coordinator has been hired and began work on January 5, 2009. The program is expected to move forward rapidly and classes will be offered by the end of the year once the coordinator develops the program and obtains accreditation.

A paramedic program is greatly needed in this region as such training is currently only offered by the University of Alaska in Kenai and Fairbanks. By offering this program at the Mat-Su College, both Borough and Anchorage personnel will be able to acquire paramedic training without extensive travel. The Borough and Anchorage combined are expected to need from 100 to 140 new paramedics over the next seven years.

Winter Trails Day Events: Winter Trails Day is a national public awareness campaign developed to promote the health and fitness benefits of winter sports. Join the fun at Hatcher Pass on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 10 am to 3 pm or at the Palmer Hay Flats on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Events will include; cross country ski instructions, snowshoe instructions, downhill mountain bike races, snowboarding lessons, avalanche rescue beacon demonstrations, skijoring demonstrations, and downhill ski lessons. Free snowshoes and cross-country skis/boots/poles will be available from REI during this special event along with hot refreshments. For more information, call the Mat-Su Borough Parks Office at 745-9690 for more information or on the web at http://ww1.matsugov.us/CommunityDevelopment and go to the parks page.

Borough Forms Available: Many Borough forms are available online at the Borough website. In addition, for those who do not use a computer, many of the forms are now available at the Borough libraries in paper form, ready to copy and use.

Mat-Su "Read to Succeed" Program: The Mat-Su "Read to Succeed" program began in all Borough libraries on December 1, 2008. Visiting authors will be coming to the libraries each month and are scheduled as follows:

February - **Nick Jans** - Author of The Last Light Breaking and The Grizzly Maze as well as a columnist for *Alaska Magazine*.
March - **Heather Lende** - Author of If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name and a regular columnist for the *Anchorage Daily News*.
April **- Gary Paulsen** - Iditarod Musher and Author of Hatchet and Dogsong.

Contact your local Borough library for dates and times, as well as information on how your family can participate in the Family Reading Program.

Wasilla Middle School Addition & Renovation ($2.2M): The addition envelope is completely framed in and painted. Interior sheetrock, window/door installation and flooring are complete. All punch list items should be completed by the end of January 2009.

Animal Care Center ($5M): The addition envelope is completely framed in with sheetrock and plumbing virtually complete in the new addition. Animal care functions are estimated to move into the addition February 2009, at which time a major renovation will start on the existing structure. The project is currently on schedule for a spring 2009 completion.

Snowshoe Elementary School Flooring ($80K): The contract was awarded October 17, 2008 to replace the second floor carpet. Due to manufacturer delays, the carpet installation will occur over weekends starting in January 2009 until completion.

DSJ Window Replacement: This project entails installing new windows in the DSJ building to seal the building envelope and significantly improve energy efficiency. The project was competitively bid, with Klebs Mechanical the responsive low bidder. Initially, funding was available for the base bid only ($387K), which included all the windows on the first and second floor on the east side of the building. This phase has been completed with the installation of new blinds. Additional funding was approved in the 2009 CIP budget. This entails the replacement of the first & second floor windows on the west side of the building ($209K). These windows have been installed and the contractor is working on final punch list items. Funds for the remaining windows are in the proposed 2010 CIP budget.

Bogard Road Extension East ($13M): A progress meeting was held on December 23rd with DOWL and others to discuss current project issues regarding right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and the status of engineering reports. DOWL submitted the environmental report for MSB review. Design of the road and work on the Corridor Access Management Plan are ongoing.

Trunk Road Extension South ($750K): Borough staff met with Lounsbury to review all alignment alternatives that have been considered for the project. Staff also met with Anne

Brooks to discuss the public meeting scheduled for January 22nd at 4:30 PM. Public meeting notices were sent out to all in the project area.

Parks Highway Connections ($6.0M): The Request for Proposals (RFP) has been advertised with proposals due on January 23rd. The RFP is soliciting proposals from civil engineering consultants for design and preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for two proposed collector roads parallel to the Parks Highway west of Wasilla.

New Project Development - RSA 17: Northshore (Knik Lake) right-of-way (ROW) has been identified and is in the design process. Work on Engstrom Road fish passage and re-alignment is in process. Bestline Road is out to bid. Bids will be opened January 26, 2009. Golden Hills Drive is in review. Yadon Acres is in development, with letters being sent to affected landowners. These issues include encroachment, drainage, and possible waste areas.

RIM Engineering: Surveying on Upper Mesa Drive and Rainbow Shores, Yadon Acres, Trellis Avenue, Engstrom Road, and Bear Street is complete. Surveying in support of the Shirley Towne Bridge Road Project (Roads to Resources Grant) is ongoing. Surveying for the right-of-way (ROW) takes on Burma Road is ongoing. Horseshoe Lake Road right-of-way (ROW) surveying is in process. Kentucky Derby drawings are completed.

O & M Road Maintenance Crews: Crews are working on sign maintenance, thawing frozen culverts, and brushing.

DSJ Building Alarm & Sprinkler Deficiency Repairs: Simplex-Grinnell is still on site this week repairing deficiencies from the sprinkler/alarm certification report.