



City Manager
334 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK. 99901

Phone (907) 228-5603
Fax (907) 225-5075

TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager

DATE: February 23, 2021

RE: **Slope Stabilization Projects Update – Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**

At the City Council meeting of December 7, 2020, Councilmembers expressed concern regarding rock cut slope conditions along the Tongass Highway. By report dated January 13, 2021, I transmitted to the City Council a report from Acting Port & Harbors Director Mark Hilson regarding this issue. Attached for City Council review is an update from the Acting Port & Harbors Director.

PUBLIC WORKS / ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director
Kara Jurczak, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director

CITY OF KETCHIKAN
Administrative Offices
PH: 907.228.4727
FAX: 907.225.8721

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karl Amylon, City Manager
CC: Lacey Simpson, Assistant City Manager
FROM: Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director, Acting Port & Harbors Director
DATE: February 23, 2021
SUBJECT: **Slope Stabilization Project – Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**

At the regular City Council Meeting of January 21, 2021, staff informed Councilmembers of the slope stabilization project at Shoreline Drive and South Tongass Highway. Attached is the contractor's construction notice showing the scope and timing of the work, which is due to be complete by the end of March. As was mentioned in the January City Council meeting, this project does not include Wolf Point. The status of the Wolf Point work remains unchanged.



CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

ADVANCED
BLASTING SERVICES, LLC

Shoreline Dr and South Tongass Hwy Slope Stabilization Project

AK DOT Project No. Z686570000

advancedblastingAK.com

What TO EXPECT

Road closure and
detour at Shoreline Dr.

Single lane closures
at S. Tongass Hwy
mile 4.5-4.6

Equipment operating
on shoulders of road

Noise from rock drills
and equipment

Trucks removing dirt
and rocks from site

Personnel working
on rock faces

Restricted access
to work area due to
danger of falling rock

Questions or Concerns?
Call Advanced Blasting
at 907-357-2900

Urgent or emergency
job site contact:
907-764-7205

SCOPE of Work

Scaling

Advanced blasting personnel will remove loose rocks and material that cause a potential hazard to the public, using climbing gear and hand tools.

Rock Bolting

Rock bolts will be installed to mitigate the possibility of large-scale slope failures. A crane, specialized rock drills, and large air compressors will be used for this operation.

Rockfall Attenuator Installation

A wire mesh rockfall attenuator will be installed to prevent any future rockfall from creating a hazard. A crane, a rock drill, and compressor will be utilized.

Invasive Species Removal

Soil containing invasive plants and seeds will be treated, excavated, removed from the job site by truck, and buried in a safe location to prevent the spread of invasive plants. Heavy equipment and a dump truck will be operating on the shoulder.

Time Line

Work on Shoreline is scheduled
March 1st to March 13th.

Work on S. Tongass is scheduled
March 4th to March 30th.

Community IMPACT

Short traffic delays should be expected on S. Tongass Hwy. Traffic control will halt work and direct traffic flow as necessary to prevent delay of emergency vehicles or school busses.

Construction lights will be used for work, traffic control, and public safety.

Efforts will be made to minimize noise and light disruption for nearby residents.

Homes and businesses will retain road access.

No utilities will be effected.

All schedules are approximate and subject to change.

TRAFFIC Control

Traffic Control will be provided by
Jolt Construction.

On-site contact:
907-631-9311



Work Schedule

Standard work hours will be 6 am
to 6 pm Sunday through Saturday.
When necessary, work will be
performed 24 hours/day.

2020 "Shop with a Cop"

Manager Amylon included for Council review a memorandum from Police Chief White that summarized the department's 2020 "Shop with a Cop" program. He congratulated all who were involved in making this program a resounding success.

Slope Stabilization Projects – Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Manager Amylon provided the Council a memorandum from Acting Port & Harbors Director Hilson regarding Councilmembers concerns regarding rock cut slope conditions along the Tongass Highway. He informed Mr. Hilson will be attending the City Council meeting to address any questions and/or concerns that Councilmembers may have.

K.P.U. MANAGER'S REPORT

Telecommunications Division Cushing summarized a power outage they had this morning between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. in the Telecommunications Division, which involved 3,000 residential customers. He indicated they worked all night and into the morning restoring service with only 16 trouble calls. He said even though most customers slept through the outage, staff felt it was a significant enough that Council needs to be aware it happened.

Manager Amylon indicated it was a severe outage, but the fact the Telecommunications Division was able to recover service the way they did shows a real tribute not only to Mr. Cushing, but to the talented people he has working for him. He stated we are very fortunate as a community to have a telecom company like this.

Project Status Reports of the KPU Division Managers – December 2020

General Manager Amylon provided for Council review the project status reports of the KPU division managers for the month of December 2020.

2021 Broadcast Surcharge Fee Increase

General Manager Amylon attached for Council review a memorandum from the Telecommunications Division Manager Ed Cushing that KPU intends to increase the broadband surcharge fee from \$18.47 to \$21.73 per month, effective February 1, 2021.

Request for Staff Report Regarding Utility Rate Increases in 2021 – Councilmember Flora

General Manager Amylon attached for Council review an informational report that was requested by Councilmember Flora in regards to the utility rate increases projected in 2021. He indicated this may aide the Council in its deliberations of the proposed rate increases.

Reports of December 1, 2, 15 and 25, 2020 Power Outages

General Manager Amylon provided for Council review a memoranda from Electric System Engineering Manager Jeremy Bynum regarding the power outages of December 1, 2, 15 and 25, 2020.

December 7, 2020

In regards to the Married Man's Trail improvements, Councilmember Bradberry said she would like to see more wayfinding and information available to direct visitors to these areas where we are making these improvements to utilize them.

For staff clarification, Manager Amylon recapped Council direction for the following:

- Defer the Stedman Street Restroom facilities, and in 2021 have staff look at alternative location and design.
- The \$30,000 allocated to Visitors Amenities to fund wayfinding signs to address comments made by Councilmember Bradberry
- Defer "The Rock" improvements to 2022.
- Married Mans Trail Gap and Exit improvements and the Salmon Walk and Salmon Ladder enhancements would stay in 2021 capital project list.

Manager Amylon stated he would bring back the motions for Council consideration on the capital projects to defer, and no objections were heard.

Mayor Sivertsen requested after the first of the year staff provide for Council a list of properties the City owns and if they can be sold, auctioned off or demolished.

Acting Port & Harbors Director Hilson answered questions from the Council regarding the repair of the Schoenbar Creek metal pipe culvert, the Water Street Trestle No. 1, Sayles/Gorge Street Bridge Replacement, Water Meters and Schoenbar Road sewer mains and water mains in the same area.

No action was taken.

Moved by Zenge, seconded by Flora the City Council defer consideration of Resolution No. 20-2796 to the special City Council budget meeting of Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

Motion passed with Kiffer, Gage, Bradberry, Flora, Zenge and Gass voting yea; Bergeron absent.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Flora thanked everyone at the City that made themselves available to do the hard work in keeping our residents safe this weekend in regards to the Ketchikan Lakes Dam.

Councilmember Bradberry echoed comments made by Councilmember Flora, and thanked everyone who was involved and helped with the voluntary evacuations this weekend.

Councilmember Kiffer echoed Councilmember Bradberry's comments along with staff, KPU and Public Work employees to prevent a serious situation from getting out of hand. He said this raises the issue to discuss the future of the old, earthen enforced dam. He questioned if the wayfinding material posted throughout the community is working the way we hoped it would. He stated it might be time to upgrade the wayfinding material. **He informed he has gotten a lot of phone calls from citizens concerned about certain hillsides in town and the fear of slides especially out by Wolf Point.**

Councilmember Gage echoed comments made by Councilmember Kiffer, stating she has concerns about that particular hillside as well. She said she appreciates everyone's effort dealing with the dam this weekend.