



August 25, 2021

Alaska District Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C, Mr. Bruce Sexauer  
2204 3rd Street (Bldg 2204)  
JBER, AK 99506-1518  
Electronically Submitted: Bruce.R.Sexauer@usace.army.mil

Re: General Investigation for Saint Paul Harbor Improvement and Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Sexauer,

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the City of Saint Paul to work with the Corps of Engineers on a General Investigation for the Saint Paul Harbor Improvement and Expansion Project.

The City of Saint Paul, Alaska is willing and able to participate as the Sponsor for the Saint Paul Harbor Improvements and Expansion Project in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively investigate expansion of the breakwater, revision of the harbor entrance channel, relocation of the exit to the Salt Lagoon, expansion of the upland, and expansion of the inner harbor.

The harbor is difficult to enter or exit during rough weather conditions. This is due to entry breakers, the necessity of a hard 90-degree turn at the entrance placing the entering vessel "in the trough", uneven bathymetry within the harbor, and surge action and long period waves within the harbor. Waves routinely overtop the breakwater and wave surges in the harbor basin combined with strong winds often result in vessels being slammed against mooring infrastructure.

Saint Paul Harbor is a regional port, serving the needs of commercial vessels operating across western Alaska in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries. Over time, demand has outgrown the harbor's ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet. Certain sizes of commercial vessels can't access the port and harbor due to depth limits and configuration of the harbor entrance.

The City of Saint Paul, Alaska understands that a study cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study with associated allocation of federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, we intend to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) to initiate the study with USACE. It is our understanding the FCSA targets completion of the feasibility study within 3 years at a total cost of no more than \$3 million. After signing the FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agreed upon by the City of Saint Paul, Alaska and USACE. The study will be conducted and managed by USACE. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a



50% contribution by the federal government, with our agency's 50% contribution provided in cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both.

The City of Saint Paul, Alaska is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a General Investigation and study partnership to address the specified water resources problems and is not a contractual obligation. We understand that work on the study cannot commence until it is included in the Administration's budget request, funds are appropriated by the Congress, and an FCSA is signed. It is understood that we or USACE may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the FCSA is signed but will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to be made in order to complete the study, our agency will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.

I look forward to working with the Corps of Engineers on this important project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

Cc. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young  
Saint Paul City Council