

Introduced by: Assembly, Mayor  
Date: 02/15/22  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2022-014**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF HOMER’S REQUEST TO THE  
ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR \$750,000 TO  
COMPLETE THE HOMER PORT AND HARBOR EXPANSION GENERAL  
INVESTIGATION STUDY**

**WHEREAS,** the assembly recently adopted Resolution 2022-011, supporting the City of Homer’s Request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for \$1.5 Million to Complete the Homer Port and Harbor Expansion General Investigation Study; and

**WHEREAS,** this resolution urges the Alaska State Department of Transportation to amend its proposed FY2023 state capital budget and fully fund the amount of \$750,000 for the purpose of conducting a new start General Investigation feasibility study for a large port expansion to the City of Homer’s (“City”) port and harbor; and

**WHEREAS,** this resolution supports the City’s request to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT) to join in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City; and

**WHEREAS,** this resolution further supports and asks that AKDOT approve the City’s request for \$750,000 for a new start General Investigation study for Homer’s Port Expansion project;

**WHEREAS,** the General Investigation study will cover planning aspects needed to build a large vessel port at the Homer Spit including, but not limited to: breakwater basin design, economic, environmental and geo-physical factors, construction methods and costs; and

**WHEREAS,** the City has committed \$750,000 in local cost share (25% of the total cost), has requested \$750,000 from the State of Alaska (25% of the total cost), and \$1.5 million from the USACE (50% of the total cost) to complete the General Investigation Study; and

**WHEREAS,** over the last 15 years this port has seen a 42% increase in large vessel traffic with a current 414-vessel moorage waiting list, causing overcrowding and significant lost revenue for the State as large vessels have to travel down to the lower 48 for space to overwinter and conduct maintenance and repairs; and

**WHEREAS,** the Port of Homer serves as a port of refuge and home port for large vessels transiting the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet and Kennedy Entrance and has the potential to accommodate layover, repairs and provisioning needs of large vessels including U.S. Coast Guard ships deployed under the Arctic Security mission with this Port expansion; and

**WHEREAS,** the Homer Port has the second highest amount of commercial fishing vessels in the state, over 50 maritime charter companies, a diverse commercial fleet, and supports infrastructure that is critical to the safety and livelihood of numerous communities and industries throughout South Central and Western Alaska, including the transportation connections of the Sterling Highway and State ferry Terminal, both AKDOT assists; and

**WHEREAS,** the cost of an Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study is capped at \$3 million, and by policy must be completed within three years and is the initial step to justification of federal dollars for the construction portion of the Port of Homer expansion project; and

**WHEREAS,** the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”) provides supplemental appropriations to the USACE and directed the USACE to develop a workplan within 60 days of enactment; and

**WHEREAS,** the City has requested the USACE for inclusion of the \$1.5 million (50% cost share) in the USACE’s IIJA workplan for a new start General Investigation Study to analyze the expansion of the City’s existing port and harbor; and

**WHEREAS,** the City’s port and harbor expansion would meet the marine industry’s growing market demands, address navigational hazards and capture new economic opportunities with a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Alaskans through job creation, economic development, and strengthened national security well into the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**


**SECTION 1.** The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly respectfully requests that the State of Alaska Department of Transportation join in partnership with the Federal USACE and the City and approve the City’s request for the State to allocate \$750,000 from its FY23 budget for a new start General Investigation Study for the expansion of the existing port and harbor.

**SECTION 2.** That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Ryan Anderson, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Commissioner, P.O. Box 112500, Juneau, AK, 99811-2500; Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, Congressman Don Young, Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski.

**SECTION 3.** That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the City of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula State Legislators: Senators Peter Micciche and Gary Stevens, and Representatives Ben Carpenter, Ron Gillham, Louise Stutes, and Sarah Vance.

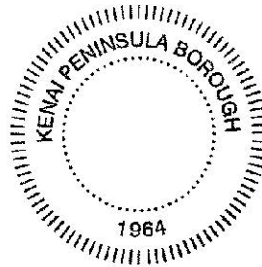
**SECTION 4.** That this resolution is effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.**

  
Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Tupper, Johnson  
No: None  
Absent: None