

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2026-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF UNALASKA'S STATE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska identifies its critical infrastructure needs by maintaining a yearly planning process called the Capital and Major Maintenance Plan with a planning horizon of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, these projects are vetted and approved by the City Council and then are shared with the Alaska State Legislature through the CAPSIS process for consideration of funding by the State Legislature during the Fiscal Year 2027 Legislative session; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska and the International Port of Dutch Harbor have been the number one commercial fishing port in the United States for poundage for more than 30 years and the industry in Unalaska positively impacts the economy of the State of Alaska in many sectors; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska is a remote island community located more than 800 miles from Anchorage with no road access and a single airport, making reliable and affordable air transportation essential to public safety, workforce stability, education, and the continued operation of the nation's largest commercial fishing port. Severe Aleutian weather, Visual Flight Rules limitations, and the absence of alternate airports frequently result in flight cancellations, extended passenger backlogs, and some of the highest airfares in the United States. These conditions create significant hardships for residents, employers, and critical industries that depend on timely crew movement. The City of Unalaska urges the State of Alaska and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to prioritize aviation infrastructure investments in Unalaska, weather and navigational improvements where feasible, and policy solutions that support service reliability, recovery capacity following prolonged disruptions, and long-term affordability for remote communities such as Unalaska.

WHEREAS, the Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building has been assessed as failing and requires immediate planning and engineering work to ensure continued safe operations and passenger access; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska's shoreline is threatened from serious erosion at numerous locations, placing critical infrastructure as well public and private property at risk and needs financial support to protect the coastline and prevent future erosion; and

WHEREAS, Captains Bay Road is a heavily used commercial corridor vital to the community's economic welfare with safety concerns and economic development potential which require road improvements, water, sewer and electric utilities. The City urges continued support of a Congressionally Directed Spending Appropriations for this project; and

WHEREAS, Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor is the facility most used by Unalaska's residents and small businesses and needs to be replaced. Floats are failing and have become a safety risk for users. The City urges increased funding for the Harbor Matching Grant program and funding of the city's application; and

WHEREAS, the City remains keenly interested in the development of the Makushin Geothermal resource on the island, in order to provide renewable energy for the future power needs of the community and the commercial seafood harvesting and processing sectors of the #1 Commercial Fishing Port in the United States. Funding is needed to conduct drilling and testing in order to prove the long-term viability of the resource

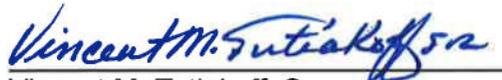
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its State Legislative Priorities as:

1. Air transportation reliability, weather resilience, and terminal infrastructure needs at Tom Madsen Airport
2. Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building Upgrades, Planning/Engineering \$500,000
3. Unalaska Shoreline Erosion \$6,000,000
4. Captains Bay Road Paving \$5,000,000
5. Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor Improvements (A & B Floats) \$5,000,000
6. Geothermal Energy Investigations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its top capital project funding priority as Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building Upgrades, Planning/Engineering.

The City of Unalaska is prepared to provide required matching funds for priority projects where appropriate, strengthening the competitiveness of these requests.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on January 27, 2026.



Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Estkaflen P. Magdaong, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Marjie Veeder, Acting City Manager
Date: January 27, 2026
Re: Resolution 2026-09: Identifying the City of Unalaska's State Priorities for FY27

SUMMARY: Every year the City Council identifies state priorities, which is used to enter our capital project priorities in the State Legislative queue which is called CAPSIS (Capital Project Submission and Information System). Our approach is to keep it simple and very straight forward. Our message gets to the point and explains our projects in CAPSIS and in the briefing memo which will be distributed to our delegation in Juneau prior to our visits there next month.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council last adopted a State Priorities resolution in February 2025 with Resolution 2025-10, copy attached.

BACKGROUND: The outside influences on this resolution include what happens in Washington, because if you receive funding from the Federal Government it can be leveraged to obtain funding from the State Legislature. The legislature likes to see community participation as well. The City of Unalaska is fortunate in that it has money to participate in required matching funds.

We also are continuing our focus on applying for grant funding that is a good fit for our projects. For example, Ports applied to the State Harbor Matching Grant program for \$5M and for the U.S. DOT Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) in partnership with Matson for upgrades at the UMC; and we were recently notified of a pending award of \$3.8M from the U.S. EPA for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant (SWIFR) Program.

DISCUSSION: The following projects were last year's priorities:

FY26 (Last Year) Project Priorities

1. Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor Improvements (A & B Floats)	\$5,000,000
2. Captains Bay Road – Paving	\$5,000,000
3. Geothermal Investigation	\$1,000,000
4. Unalaska Shoreline Erosion	\$2,000,000
5. Unalaska Marine Center & Light Cargo Dock Dredging	\$700,000
6. Tom Madsen Airport Terminal, Planning/Engineering	\$500,000

Proposed FY27 (Current Year) Project Priorities

1. Air Transportation Issues (Advocacy)	
2. Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building, Planning/Engineering	\$500,000
3. Unalaska Shoreline Erosion	\$6,000,000
4. Captains Bay Road – Paving	\$5,000,000
5. Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor Improvements (A & B Floats)	\$5,000,000
6. Geothermal Energy Investigations	

The deadline for FY27 CAPSIS requests projects is February 20, 2026. Resolution 2026-09 drives our list of CAPSIS projects.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may choose to adopt the resolution as presented, or modify as they see fit.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: No direct financial impact with the adoption of the resolution.

LEGAL: No legal review required.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to adopt Resolution 2026-09.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: I've worked closely with our lobbyist in regard to the proposed resolution, and we welcome feedback from council for this important effort.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution 2025-10 (last year's priorities)

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2025-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF UNALASKA'S STATE PRIORITIES FOR FY26

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska identifies its critical infrastructure needs by maintaining a yearly planning process called the Capital and Major Maintenance Plan with a planning horizon of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, these projects are vetted and approved by the City Council and then are shared with the Alaska State Legislature through the CAPSIS process for consideration of funding by the State Legislature during the Fiscal Year 2026 Legislative session; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska and the International Port of Dutch Harbor have been the number one commercial fishing port in the United States for poundage for more than 30 years and the industry in Unalaska positively impacts the economy of the State of Alaska in many sectors; and

WHEREAS, Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor is the facility most used by Unalaska's residents and small businesses and needs to be replaced. Floats are failing and have become a safety risk for users and the City; and

WHEREAS, Captains Bay Road is a heavily used commercial corridor vital to the community's economic welfare with safety concerns and economic development potential which require road improvements, water, sewer and electric utilities. The City urges continued support of a Congressionally Directed Spending Appropriations for this project; and

WHEREAS, the City remains keenly interested in the development of the Makushin Geothermal resource on the island, in order to provide renewable energy for the future power needs of the community and the commercial seafood harvesting and processing sectors of the #1 Commercial Fishing Port in the United States. Funding is needed to conduct drilling and testing in order to prove the long-term viability of the resource; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska's shoreline is threatened from serious erosion at numerous locations, placing critical infrastructure as well public and private property at risk and needs financial support to protect the coastline and prevent future erosion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska supports the commercial fishing and shipping industries and wants to maintain a thriving, sustainable infrastructure by dredging the materials at City docks to the same depth as the entrance channel dredging project scheduled to happen in June, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building needs upgrades to ensure continued service; and

WHEREAS, the Unalaska City Council recognizes that education plays a vital role and therefore urges State Legislators and the Governor to address the State of Alaska's constitutional responsibility to maintain its public schools by passing immediate legislation to institute a

reasonable increase to the base student allocation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its State Legislative Priorities as:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Robert Storrs Small Boat Harbor Improvements (A & B Floats) | \$5,000,000 |
| 2. Captains Bay Road - Paving | \$5,000,000 |
| 3. Geothermal Investigation | \$1,000,000 |
| 4. Unalaska Shoreline Erosion | \$2,000,000 |
| 5. Unalaska Marine Center & Light Cargo Dock Dredging | \$700,000 |
| 6. Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building Upgrades, Planning/Engineering | \$500,000 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its top capital project funding priority as the Captains Bay Road Waterline Extension Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on February 11, 2025.


Alejandro Bong Tungul
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Estkarlen P. Magdaong, CMC
City Clerk





CITY OF UNALASKA

43 Raven Way - P.O. Box 610

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TEL (907) 581-1251 FAX (907) 581-4469

LAY-ON-THE-TABLE MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Abner Hoage, Interim City Manager

Date: January 26, 2026

Subject: 20260127 Council Agenda Item 11b - Recommended Amendments to Resolution 2026-09 – State Priorities for FY27

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council with recommended refinements to Resolution 2026-09 to strengthen the City's advocacy for improved air service reliability, resilience, and affordability, and to ensure our State priorities clearly reflect the community's most urgent aviation needs.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2026-09 identifies the City's State Legislative Priorities for FY27 and forms the basis for our CAPSIS submissions and discussions with the Alaska State Legislature. The draft resolution includes "*Air transportation issues*" as Priority #1. While this captures the general intent, the language can be strengthened to more clearly communicate Unalaska's specific aviation challenges and the urgent need for State support. Additionally, the Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building has been assessed as failing and requires immediate planning and engineering work to ensure continued safe operations. Strengthening the resolution's narrative around this need will help reinforce the City's top capital priority. Finally, the City's ability to provide matching funds is a competitive advantage in the State funding environment and should be explicitly noted.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS:

1. Clarify Priority #1 to reflect specific aviation needs: Replace the current Priority #1 (“Air transportation issues”) with: *“Air transportation reliability, weather resilience, and terminal infrastructure needs at Tom Madsen Airport.”*
2. Strengthen the terminal building justification: Add the following sentence to the “*WHEREAS*” section: *“The Tom Madsen Airport Terminal Building has been assessed as failing and requires immediate planning and engineering work to ensure continued safe operations and passenger access.”*
3. Add language acknowledging the City’s readiness to provide matching funds: Insert the following statement near the end of the resolution: *“The City of Unalaska is prepared to provide required matching funds for priority projects where appropriate, strengthening the competitiveness of these requests.”*

RATIONALE:

These refinements provide clearer direction to the Legislature and DOT&PF, strengthen the City’s case for aviation-related funding, reinforce the urgency of the terminal building project, improve competitiveness for State capital funding, and align the State priorities with the City’s broader strategy to improve air service reliability, resilience, and affordability.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Council is respectfully requested to amend Resolution 2026-09 by incorporating the recommended changes outlined in this memorandum.

SUGGESTED MOTION (OPTIONAL):

If the Council wishes to amend Resolution 2026-08, the following motion is provided for convenience:

“I move to amend Resolution 2026-09 by incorporating the revisions recommended in the Interim City Manager’s lay-on-the-table memorandum dated January 27, 2026.”