

# Capital improvements criteria announced

By Ceceile Richter  
Tundra Times

As the list of capital projects requested by communities in the state soared to \$1.6 billion last month, and the number of participating communities grew to over 150, the Sheffield administration unveiled its revised CIP (capital improvements projects) budget review process.

According to these criteria, projects destined for the current year capital supplemental appropriation of some \$120 million dollars must have been through the review process by Feb. 20. In order to be included in the Fiscal Year 1984 capital budget of some \$1.5 billion dollars, all projects must be through the system by early March.

Projects to be screened through the process include all those in the Governor's budget proposal for Fiscal 1984 as well as those projects which didn't make it from the state agency into the Governor's budget.

Entry into the process is also through a capital grant request submitted through a community to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs or a capital grant request submitted to an appropriate state agency, the legislature or the governor's office for forwarding to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs which is tabulating a projects list.

Secondly, all projects are to be sorted by the governor's office of Management and Budget into two groups: those

which are capital projects and those which are not capital projects. OMB is then supposed to sort out those projects which do not serve a public purpose, those which are not at first appearance feasible, or those which represent a public sector responsibility.

Those which are determined to be actual capital projects and survive this first screening will then be sorted into categories by state agency for further review by the particular state agency. An example of this is that water and sewer projects would be classified under the Department of Environmental Conservation.

All projects below \$250,000 in dollar value and all projects that are non-classifiable will be forwarded to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for review. Decision making on funding of these smaller projects will stay with C and RA, alluding to Larry Crawford, the governor's chief of staff and chair of the CIP review process.

The third step is that projects are supposed to be ranked by the state agencies according to such criteria as need for the project, who the project benefits, community support for the project, what is the present status of the project, and the feasibility of its completion with state and other available funds. Additionally the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of the projects are to be considered as well as the ability of the applicant to carry out the project.

According to Crawford,

agencies may use their own review process so long as these criteria are considered.

Each agency is then to prioritize and rank the projects under its review. These lists then go to a Technical CIP Review Taskforce in the Office of Management and Budget.

The fourth step in the process, according to a memo to the governor's cabinet from Crawford, is that "The Technical CIP Review Taskforce merges the agency lists into one priority listing of projects for all departments." How this consolidation and merger is actually to be accomplished has not been regrouped, called the CIP Review Committee, is supposed to look at whether the projects meet economic development objectives, that is whether they will create jobs for Alaska residents. Additionally they are to consider the geographic distribution of projects around the state.

With these criteria in mind the CIP Review Committee is free to shuffle projects around on the merged list of projects.

The next step appears to be the governor's office where something called the Legislation/Budget Review Committee gets involved. The idea seems to be that with input from Crawford, the attorney general, the commissioner of review, director of OMB, and governor's legislative liaison, a list will be arrived at which has the governor's approval.

As the Crawford memo describes it, "During this step the governor and the legislative

body will exchange ideas and discuss legislative and executive priorities. It is at this point that we will jointly determine with the legislative leadership

that all priority projects have been considered and the local, executive and legislative priorities are reflected in the final capital budget.