

Concern 4: Capital City Concept and Program

One of the most important tasks in the site selection process is to define, or describe, what type of city the new capital will be. How many people will live and work there? How many people will be employed by state government, and how many more people will be employed in Federal and local government activities? What secondary or support services will be required? How many people will these services involve and how much space will they require?

The type of services and facilities required by the new capital will be determined largely by its location. A capital near a major city could draw on that city's facilities, whereas a more remote city would require its own services. By the same token, if a capital is located near a major industrial employment area, additional nearby employment opportunities would attract more people to live in the capital and a greater variety of services would be required to accommodate their needs.

Space and program requirements of the new capital are being refined through interviews with State Commissioners and officials of various departments. At the same time, comparative costs for developing the capital in each of the four subzones remaining in the screening process are also being developed. These costs comparisons will cover facilities, transportation, and utilities requirements.

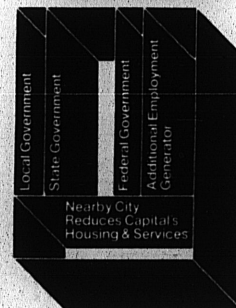
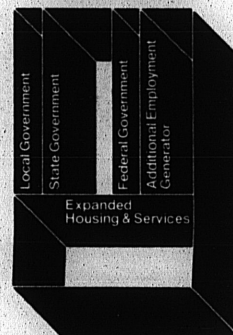
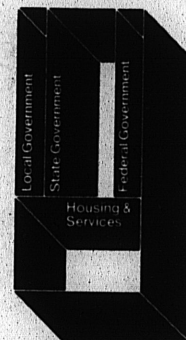
Capital City Analysis...

To determine how alternative locations will affect the requirements of a new capital city, the CSSC is analyzing what services and facilities would be required for the estimated population of State, Federal and local employees. The diagrams shown here

illustrate the process used to analyze the capital city program in the selection study. This degree of combined government employment constitutes the "primary employment generator" of the new capital city. Government employees in these three levels of government and their families will require housing, schools, medical facilities, and other services.

If the capital were located near a second major source of employment, the size and diversity of its population, as well as secondary retail requirements, transportation, and communication systems would increase. The combination of government and private employment implies a more balanced community with a greater variety of activities including health care and shopping as well as educational facilities and housing.

While a relatively isolated city would require its own services, a capital located near an urban area would, to a large degree, eliminate the need to develop certain activities within the capital city. Some of their services would be provided by the established community. Combining existing community services with the activities of the new capital city would offer a greater diversity and choice of activities and services than would be possible otherwise.



Concern 5: Regional Land Use Issues



Since capital program specifications will be developed partly on the basis of access and utility requirements and where employment and recreation may be found in the region, it is necessary to identify possible relationships between the new capital and surrounding areas, particularly, the effect of regional growth and employment on different capital sites. To do so, established land uses and certain growth trends are being identified in potential capital development areas. The growth trends are being identified by comparing maps of established development with areas designated as suitable for development by Boroughs and the Federal/State Land Use Planning Commission.

Locating the capital near established development or where future development is expected creates certain conditions for economic growth in addition to government employment. Policies relating to oil, gas and mineral leasing as well as to agriculture and land use also affect economic growth. A capital located

near any of these resources does not necessarily guarantee that the resource will be developed nor, if developed, that it will benefit the capital. However, benefits could be gained from the kinds of various retail services and community education, cultural, and medical facilities usually found in large population centers. The effects of such relationships will be discussed through interviews with Borough planners, and State and Federal officials as well as Alaskans throughout the State.

The potential areawide economic impact of tourist, agriculture, forestry, oil, gas, coal, fishing, and hardrock minerals industries are being assessed and, in Phase 4, particular projects in these industries evaluated for their effect on the capital. A consideration of these prospective activities and regional growth trends can create a workable relationship between the capital and its surroundings that respects the orderly growth of the entire region.