

Interior villages may plan their own growth and development

Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Inc. (FTVAD) recently received a grant from the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs to implement a Rural Capital Improvements Program (RCIP) within the district boundaries of FTVAD (the same boundaries as the Tanana Chiefs Conference).

The program was developed by FTVAD to enable rural communities in the region to plan their growth and development, instead of following the familiar pattern of reacting to crises, making decisions piecemeal or having decisions made by someone else.

The FTVAD has hired Allen

Blume as supervising consultant to establish the methods and techniques of data collection for this project. Through the month of November he will be hiring consultants from the major sub-regional centers, and assisting them in developing the information sought by this Community and Regional Affairs grant.

The Rural Capital Improvements Program is viewed as an advisory tool with the presumption that community adoption would guide the federal allocation of resources to state and local governments for the funding of project priorities.

Recognizing that millions of acres of land in Interior Alaska

will be transferred to private ownership as enacted by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, it is necessary to inventory and evaluate existing facilities and services in rural communities. This inventory will be assembled by consultants working in close cooperation with rural residents, Native corporations and rural municipalities in the development of facilities necessary for the expanded economy anticipated and desired in communities in the FTVAD region.

The completed document is to be used as a planning and management tool to assist the federal government and the State of Alaska in allocating capital projects dollars on a priority basis to individual communities.

The effort will be distinct from other such studies in that it will allow each community to define and set their own goals and priorities, separate from the standards of external agencies.

Guidelines for the program will be sent to each community in the district which has a population of twenty-five or more. Forty-two rural Interior Alaska communities qualify to participate in the program.

Based on site inspections, community interviews, existing sources of information, and input from the Advisory Committee of the FTVAD Board of Directors, a comprehensive community profile will be compiled. A Community Economic Development Plan (CEDP) will be prepared by FTVAD and its consultants based on data pro-

vided by the residents of each community. The RCIP coordinator will work with the consultant to prepare a refined and updated analysis of the capital improvements requirements of the community.

Local government officials and residents in each community will prioritize their capital improvements projects. FTVAD will then compare the priority list for compatibility

with existing local, state and federal agency capital improvement programs. The CEDP's will be consolidated into four sub-regional economic development plans. Each sub-region will be represented by an advisory committee composed of FTVAD Board members who reside in the sub-region. They will prioritize the capital improvements projects and recommend a growth center on a sub-regional basis.