

Supplemental bill awaits Sheffield approval

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Tundra Times

Governor Sheffield has until April 22 to decide whether to let stand a \$250.7 million — two-thirds for rural Alaska — appropriation for construction

of capital projects around the state this summer.

The 1984 supplemental capital projects bill that has cleared both the House and Senate is \$1.7 million over the bill introduced to the Senate at the

governor's request on March 7. At that time the governor offered a list of projects totalling \$249 million which he said were bid-ready for the 1983 construction season and would provide construction

employment, particularly in regions where employment has become soft or is in decline.

In addition, the approved bill (SB162) contains items, such as \$4.7 million for renovation of the Anchorage Sydney Laurence Auditorium and Performing Arts Facility and \$375,000 for a freshwater marine mammal exhibit at the Alaska Zoo, that do not appear to meet basic criteria established by the governor.

These criteria, in addition to bid readiness, were that a project "meet immediate life and health safety needs, create infrastructure for economic development throughout the state, or make the state highway system usable by the heavier commercial and tourist traffic that the economic development projects would help bring about.

The governor said in his letter to Senate President Jalmor Kerttula that the projects had been nominated by communities from across the state, by state agencies, and by some legislators. More than 150 communities statewide sent the administration their wish lists totalling more than \$2.5 billion dollars.

The governor told Kerttula that he would welcome suggestions for better projects and would be pleased to substitute any high priority projects that would meet or exceed the objectives that had been established.

The governor did rewrite his bill but perhaps not in the way he had originally imagined. The governor was forced through

legislative pressure to pare his list down to \$83 million so that the House and Senate could each add one-third shares to the total.

Although he voted for the bill on the House floor, House Finance Chair Al Adams (D-Kotzebue) said privately after his committee's add-on to the bill that he was not in favor of passage.

"I personally don't think the whole thing is fair," he commented. "I worry also about decline of revenues," he said.

Adams said that he hoped the governor would continue to follow his criteria on the projects and that only bid-ready projects would get by. "The governor has authority to zap any item not meeting his criteria," Adams said.

"As far as the rural areas," he said, "some areas have made out well finding basic needs met. There are other areas (of the State) that I don't feel were touched."

Commenting on the bill later, Rep. Tony Vaska (D-Bethel) said the fairness of the bill is not how it is divided between urban and rural Alaska but whether communities got what they needed.

Testifying before a joint session of the Senate and House Finance Committees on March 24, the day after the Senate passed its revision of the governor's bill, Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles suggested that communities need to consider whether to accept all capital projects offered to them by the

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Capital projects for Bush listed here

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legislature. He said that they should consider not accepting projects that they could not afford to operate in the future.

Knowles said that if the Municipality of Anchorage had its way the Sydney Laurence project wouldn't have the funding that it did in the bill and more of the Anchorage share would be put into transportation-related projects.

Knowles said he was "joining other communities in going back to basics this year: water, sewer, transportation, and public safety."

Anchorage, which has half the population of the state, received about one-third of the projects in the bill.

Sen. Frank Ferguson (D-Kotzebue) has questioned whether the bill will result in rural construction projects this summer and to what extent there will be employment of locals.

Speaking to the Rural CAP Village Participation Conference in Juneau on March 29, the Senator pointed out that "In rural Alaska, in order to be ready for construction by July 1 of 1983, the barge orders have to be placed by March."

He said that "Communities do not, even if supplemental capital construction bills are passed earlier, receive notification that funds are available until April or May, and usually June."

Ferguson also pointed to a study by the former Rural Development Council in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs which found that over one-third of rural construction money goes to out-of-state construction firms.

Ferguson referenced two examples in the study — a 1982

storm repair project in Hooper Bay that resulted in 3 local jobs and 20 out-of-state workers being employed and the 1982-82 Kobuk/Sungnak runway project that resulted in 2 local jobs, 128 jobs for Anchorage residents and 49 jobs for workers from out-of-state.

Some of the major Bush projects include:

SCHOOL UPGRADE OR CONSTRUCTION: Tenakee Springs construction, \$350,000; Lower Yukon Schools upgrade, \$1,000,000; Yukon Koyukuk Schools upgrade, \$1,000,000; Nenana roof repair, \$900,000; Holy Cross re-roofing, \$250,000; Chistochina new elementary, \$530,000; Kenny Lake/Glennallen upgrade, \$600,000; Chignik Lake school supplemental, \$150,000; Hoonah playground planning, \$170,000; Pelican repairs and sprinklers, \$180,000.

AIRPORTS AND HARBORS: Sheldon Point airport improvement, \$320,000; Ugashik airport extension, \$130,000; Bethel airport paving \$7,700,000; Chanega small boat dock \$900,000; Whittier small boat harbor, \$250,000; Aleknagik dock supplemental, \$240,000; Port Lions, innerharbor facility, \$1,650,000; Cordova small boat harbor, \$800,000; Cordova boat harbor completion, \$1,200,000; Saxman seaport, \$500,000; Petersburg harbor improvements 1,900,000; Yakutat port & dock supplemental, \$2,800,000; Tenakee Springs ferry passenger facility, \$150,000; Kake public dock, \$1,500,000; Seward marine industrial port, \$6,000,000; Valdez small boat harbor, \$1,000,000;

Nenana dock facility, \$2,000,000; Deering runway lights, \$410,000; Kobuk Runway lights, \$320,000; Noorvik runway lights, \$320,000; Dillingham dock improvements, \$700,000; Naknek dock excavation, \$500,000; Unalaska airport terminal building, \$700,000; Point Lay finger floats, \$350,000; Tenakee Medivac heliport, \$100,000; Anderson runway & lighting, \$400,000; Wales airport lighting, \$32,000.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: Mountain Village/St. Mary's road upgrade,

\$450,000; Ninilchik Oilwell/Kingsley Road, \$400,000; Nondalton/Newhalen to Iliamna road construction, \$1,000,000; Russian Mission road & facility upgrade, \$210,000; Klawock road improvements, \$200,000; Port Alexander boardwalks, \$150,000; Seldovia Streets, \$250,000; Soldotna Redoubt Ave. improvement, \$1,400,000; Deering road construction, \$150,000; Sitka /mt. Edgecumbe Road repaving, \$1,600,000; Delta Junction road & street improvement, \$950,000; Unalakleet road/bridge construction, \$1,150,000; Hughes road construction, \$100,000; Ruby road /street construction, \$240,000; Tulaksak road construction, \$280,000; St. Mary's road construction, \$140,000; Dillingham street improvements, \$570,000; Sleetmute road construction, \$120,000; Hoonah garbage dump road, \$200,000.

EROSION CONTROL: Bethel bank stabilization, \$5,000,000; Tununak seawall, \$500,000; Selawik erosion control \$100,000, Unalakleet erosion control, \$150,000; Koyukuk erosion control, \$100,000.

WATER AND SEWER: Wrangell water/sewer \$1,050,000; Metlakatla water/sewer, \$220,000; Klawock water line, \$380,000; Bethel sewer line extension, \$400,000; Naknek sewage collection & treatment facility, \$670,000; Sand Point Meadows phase I water/sewer, \$1,870,000; Haines Water/sewer, \$120,000; Skagway water/sewer, \$760,000; Seldovia water/sewer, \$560,000; Saint Michael water/sewer, \$1,000,000; Shaktoolik, water/sewer, \$1,000,000; Shishmaref water/sewer, \$1,000,000; Kotzebue water/sewer, \$1,000,000; Nome-Belmont Point water/sewer, \$300,000; Nome water reservoir, \$500,000; Shungnak water/sewer, \$400,000; Ambler water/sewer, \$150,000; Buckland, water/sewer, \$250,000; Alakanuk water/sewer, \$840,000; Emmonak water/sewer, \$1,800,000; Kotzebue water/sewer, \$1,000,000.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES: Tatitlek combined facility, \$250,000; Pilot Station multi-use facility, \$240,000; Fortuna Lodge multi-use facility, \$100,000; Kotzebue recreation center, \$500,000; Atkasuk recreation center, \$360,000; Kaktovik recrea-

tion center, \$120,000; Nuiqsut recreation center, \$150,000; Point Hope recreation center, \$150,000; Wainwright recreation center, \$280,000; Soldotna Central Peninsula sports arena, \$500,000; Delta Junction visitor's center, \$250,000; Delta community park completion, \$950,000; Huslia community recreation, \$150,000; Point Lay recreation center, \$220,000; Copper Center community hall upgrade, \$110,000; Pitka's Point multi-use facility, \$100,000; Takotna multi-use facility, \$150,000; Tyonek community facility, \$140,000; Shungnak combined facility, \$160,000.

BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION: Copper Center legislative information office, \$140,000; Kiana health clinic construction, \$270,000; Chevak clinic \$530,000; Grayling health/safety building, \$100,000; Angoon equipment storage, \$300,000; Holy Cross heavy equipment, \$120,000; Nulato heavy equipment, \$220,000; Fort Yukon maintenance facility, \$120,000; Pelican vehicle maintenance, \$170,000; Kivalina heavy equipment, \$150,000; Kobuk heavy equipment/road construction, \$300,000; Diomedea electrical distribution system, \$100,000; Tanana energy retrofit, \$120,000; Quinhagak overhead electrical distribution, \$440,000; Unalaska electrical system, \$830,000; Larsen Bay electrical system, \$150,000; Igiugig electrification, \$200,000; NWASD-Noatak tank farm relocation, \$280,000.

MISCELLANEOUS: Selawik agricultural project, \$600,000; Kotzebue-NANA search & rescue, \$290,000; Napakiak fire protection, \$230,000; Copper Landing fire apparatus, \$100,000; Delta Junction landfill, \$500,000.

In a related note, the Senate last week passed and sent to the House for consideration a \$67.1 million bill for water and sewer projects for this year's construction season. Many of these projects complement activities in the capital bill on the governor's desk and many activities just happen to be in this bill instead of that one.

Some of the major projects approved include:

WATER AND SEWER: Bering Straits School District water projects (Teller, Brevig Mission, Golovin, and Shishmaref) \$1,000,000; Petersburg water storage facility, \$330,000; Cordova Power Creek project, \$400,000; Cordova small boat harbor water line, \$220,000; Kake water supply tank, \$120,000; Soldotna Redoubt Ave. water & sewer, \$190,000; Soldotna water reservoir & transmission, \$750,000; Seward terminal additional water & sewer, \$1,560,000; Valdez water & sewer, \$650,000; Valdez landfill improvements and old landfill, \$150,000; Craig water & sewer phase I completion, \$1,000,000; Hydaburg water & sewer upgrade, \$1,720,000; Klawock water & sewer improvement, \$500,000; Delta Junction city landfill improvements, \$480,000; Kaktovik grey water facility, \$450,000; Noorvik water & sewer expansion, \$600,000; Kotzebue water & sewer expansion, \$1,100,000; Chevak water & sewer, \$800,000; Nome water & sewer system, \$1,000,000; Savoonga/Punik Island water & sewer, \$450,000; Scammon Bay water & sewer, \$350,000; Unalakleet water main extension, \$500,000; St. Michael water & sewer, \$600,000; Hooper Bay water & sewer, \$200,000; Aniak community sewer system, \$500,000; Fort Yukon water & sewer system, \$5,400,000; Galena water & sewer, \$2,500,000;

McGrath water delivery phase I, \$1,150,000; Minto water & sewer phase I, \$1,000,000; Nikolai water & sewer on site, \$400,000; Nulato water & sewer phase I, \$1,000,000; Dillingham water improvements, \$300,000; Newhalen-Iliamna water development, \$340,000; Akhik sanitary landfill development, \$460,000; Larsen Bay water & sewer development, \$370,000; Old Harbor sewer renovation, \$1,160,000; Port Lions Bayview Dr., \$130,000; Kenny Lake water, sewer & public buildings, \$150,000; Igiugig water/sewer & solid waste, \$840,000. Additionally \$200,000 is appropriated for water and sewer feasibility studies in Anvik, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Telida and Platnum.