



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 4, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Alaska State Troopers Staffing: At the Strategic Planning meeting on August 10, the Assembly asked for a summary of the State Trooper manning levels and a crime statistics report. The crime statistics for each year are typically produced in September each year for the previous year. The Trooper Public Affairs Officer, Austin McDaniel, has agreed to brief the Assembly on those statistics in October. For the Trooper manning summary, the Trooper B Detachment Commander provided the following current summary:

1. Statewide, for DPS, there are 411 commissioned positions. 348 commissioned positions are filled, leaving 63 vacant (15% vacancy rate). 23 candidates are currently enrolled in the Academy. This includes commissioned positions within both divisions of the State Troopers and the Wildlife Troopers.

2. DPS within the Mat-Su Borough has 81 total commissioned positions: 63 of those commissioned positions are filled, and 18 commissioned positions are vacant (22% vacancy rate). Specific to Alaska State Troopers B Detachment within the Mat-Su Borough, there are 49 positions, with 13 vacant (27% vacancy rate). B Detachment includes the patrol function and their responsibilities at the Palmer Court. The other 32 positions, from the 81 above, are not assigned to B Detachment. They include Troopers assigned to the Wildlife Troopers, Major Crimes Investigations, Child Crimes Investigations, Special Crimes, and positions assigned to the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit.

Safe Streets for All (SS4A): The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the SS4A discretionary program, which funds grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Before proceeding with implementation funding, the program requires completing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), which includes a community survey. Borough staff and our consultant have created a website describing the effort and provided information via social media and to community councils and various community groups. The Borough website is located at <https://ss4a.matsugov.us/>. Funding was accepted on October 3, 2023 via OR 23-090 and a contract to develop the CSAP was approved on May 7, 2024 via AM 24-054. See attached flyer.

Talkeetna Flooding/Erosion Funding: At the August 10 Strategic Planning meeting, an Assembly member asked for a summary of our spending on Talkeetna flooding and erosion issues over the last 10 years. Our current system can quickly pull project data back to 2010. There has not been extensive spending in recent years other than events in 2020 and 2023. Spending is as follows.

Fiscal Year	Funding Source (Borough)	State/Federal	Total Spent
2011 – Brush clearing (spent 2012 & 2015)	\$30,000		\$30,000
2021 – Revolving loan	\$300,000		\$300,000
2021 – Fund Balance	\$100,000		\$100,000
2024 – Revetment Repair		\$763,702	\$762,702
Total	\$430,000	\$763,702	\$1,193,702

Fund 290 – Talkeetna Flood Control has a projected fund balance of \$113,296 on June 30, 2025.

Firearms Training Contract Summary: The contract for the Citizen Firearm Training has been executed and the class schedules and final syllabus are being developed. The contractor, Phalanx Academy, has already begun collecting names of interested attendees. Classes are anticipated to begin this month, with more details to follow. Once the final schedules are developed, we will begin officially advertising the program.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- Salmon Disaster
Craig Medred

Borough Business

- Borough continues junk car removal program
KTNA

Opioid addiction help

- This is where the opioid settlement money is going
Mat-Su Sentinel
- Governor comes to the MSBSD to sign HB 202 bill to allow every school to carry opioid overdose kits
Frontiersman
- All Mat-Su Schools to stock anti-overdose medications under new state rule
Frontiersman

Resource Development

- Biden Administration will keep 28 million acres in protection
Spokesman.com

Election

- [Final MSB Candidate list for upcoming elections released](#)
Frontiersman
- [Most Alaska students are not proficient in reading math or science state test results show](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [2024 Palmer-Houston-Wasilla voter guide](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Future Events:

- Sat., September 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., 16th Annual Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Menard Sports Complex, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla
- Tues., October 15 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mat-Su Fall Economic Conference, Evangelo's, Registration: <https://greaterwasillaak.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/22708>

Matanuska-Susitna Borough



COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Safety Starts at Our Core - Safe Streets Mat-Su

What is this project?

Matanuska-Susitna Borough is developing a Comprehensive Safety Plan, which is a long-term strategy for improving transportation safety in the borough. The goal of the plan is to prevent and reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the borough's roads.

The project is funded through a grant awarded to the Mat-Su Borough through the federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program.

We want to hear from you!

You know your roads best. We need your perspective and knowledge of specific safety issues to inform our plan.

Virtual Public Workshop #1

Wednesday, July 10, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86472009583?pwd=QbMMJMObkVrSjgTaOysR6SVdlUWm55Q.1>

Virtual Public Workshop #2

Winter 2024

Open House (Palmer, Wasilla, & Houston)

Winter 2024

Visit our website
and take the
survey!

ss4a.matsugov.us



WHY A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN?

From 2013-2022, law enforcement reports show the Mat-Su Borough expanded core area had nearly **10,000 roadway crashes** including:

- 100 fatal crashes
- 345 serious injury crashes
- 69 crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians, 93% of which resulted in injury or death

There is more to be done to improve these statistics and reduce the impact these losses cause to the community.

This plan will follow the [Safe System Approach](#), a national roadway safety strategy developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Safe System Approach recognizes that humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes, which means multiple layers of protection must be in place to help prevent crashes and minimize the severity of injuries when they do happen.

This plan will help the Mat-Su Borough understand what factors contribute to crashes within its expanded core area, and recommend tools and strategies to prevent them. This includes things like changes to roadway design, education and outreach, and review of policies and enforcement actions that support safety.

Contact us for more information:

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It is the policy of the Mat-Su Borough that no one shall be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The Mat-Su Borough complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.