



City of Homer

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For immediate release:

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HOMER HARBOR NAVIGATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS GENERAL INVESTIGATION INCLUDED IN THE FY25 PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET

Homer, Alaska – March 11, 2024 – The Fiscal Year 2025 Presidential proposed budget was released today and it includes federal continuation funding for the Homer Harbor Navigational Improvements General Investigation being conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). While the announcement underscores the USACE’s commitment to advancing the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation, it is essential to note that funding is contingent upon approval from Congress during the budgetary process.

The General Investigation assesses the feasibility of harbor expansion to accommodate large vessels, enhance navigational safety and provide relief for the harbor’s overcrowded facilities. Initiated in FY23, the study had made significant progress in preliminary analysis, stakeholder engagement and data collection before being slowed down due to federal budgetary constraints in FY24. Presently, the City of Homer and the USACE are strategically moving the study forward on key activities which utilize remaining FY23 funds, including environmental fieldwork and geotechnical data collection.

“While the President’s proposed budget is only step one in a lengthy, tumultuous time for federal budgets, this is still very exciting for our community,” said Rachel Lord, Homer City Councilmember. “We certainly hope to be included in the final budget. The City thanks Alaska’s Congressional Delegation, the State of Alaska and the USACE for championing the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation. The study gives us the potential to identify sustainable solutions to the region’s evolving maritime transportation needs and address safety concerns, while balancing environmental stewardship and economic vitality.”

The General Investigation study is vital for assessing the technical, economic, and environmental aspects of the proposed Homer Harbor expansion, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making and future infrastructure investments. Federal continuation funding enables the study to regain momentum and expedite this important evaluation process.

More information about the USACE Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation can be found at <https://homerharborexansion.com/>.

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