

- **Grants update:**

I removed all the grant info for now except a few updates.

All federal grants and loans were effectively halted as of 1pm Tuesday 1/28/25, pending agency review. There is a list of things that agencies are being asked to do before a decision is made to allow a project to move forward. Most importantly, this memo suggests that the Administration will cancel grants/contracts that do not meet their terms. Keep in mind - this memo is directed to agencies, and not grantees. It is still not clear what action, or communication will come from each agency although we have received a few emails have been sent with differing updates, some positive, others not so much. Alaska Municipal League is staying on top of the situation which changes daily. And a further complication is that just because the court has given a temporary restraining order there is no reason to think these grants or projects are still moving forward. The DOJ argued Monday that the federal court order does not halt the administration's efforts.

"The federal court held a hearing Wednesday and [granted](#) the plaintiffs' request for a temporary restraining order Friday, which said the Trump administration "shall not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate...federal financial assistance to the States."

However, Trump's DOJ responded Monday to the order saying that since the Democratic states "only challenged the OMB memorandum," the administration does not "read the Order to prevent the President or his advisors from communicating with federal agencies or the public about the President's priorities regarding federal spending."

It will be an immense amount of work, for federal agencies to unwind in 90 days what it took 3+ years to roll out. The full extent of impact is still unknown. It may be that all traditional infrastructure projects move forward again quickly, after a review. Other projects may be delayed. Some may be rescinded. We understand this introduces an incredible amount of uncertainty, and worry about staffing, projects in the middle of getting award obligations in place and other obligations. As more information becomes available, AML is assisting municipalities in wading through the mire.

- National League of Cities – Advancing Economic Mobility - Match AP&T for heat pump acquisition - 20K

Update – Applications are still being processed, some payments have been made, and letters are being sent to folks who need to supply additional information to receive approval/payment.

- Compost Facility

Update –We will resubmit a CDS request for FY26 with the baler as a separate request as requested by Senator Murkowski's appropriations staff.

- DRC Recycling Center

Update - We received word last Friday 1/31 that (for now) all processing of new grants and work under existing grants not awarded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (a.k.a. the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), which Congressionally-directed spending grants are not, can resume. Our grant application is in the EPA database now. EPA folks are checking to confirm that the funds have been transferred to the regional office from EPA HQ or that they will be soon. Our application is currently undergoing initial review by the grants specialist assigned to it.

- PIDP –*Update*- We have a debrief scheduled for 2/27 with MARAD and some folks from ADOT to see about resubmitting and also to look at other sources of funding.
- A significant amount of time during this report period was spent on our Request for Reconsideration on the Xunaa Borough. It was submitted and the LBC had a meeting, and the decision was made to reconsider a couple of the requests. Mayor McLaughlin has more to report on this. The information was sent out to News with links to the LBC information.
- Roads – GBC is doing their best to keep our roads under control. They are clearing brush just past the gravel pits to ensure the ditches continue to flow and not become clogged with debris. If anyone has concerns, rather than calling City Hall, please send those concerns by filling out a form that can be found here: <https://www.gustavus-ak.gov/roads/webform/road-maintenance-concerns-reports> We also get copies of the reports.
- A brief list of other items:
 - Prepped Council Member B. Taylor on items to bring to DC for his visits to congressional offices
 - Prepared a white paper regarding ferry ramp usage on the dock
 - Had a few issues with Dept. Of Administration to clean up so it would not impact grants
 - Assisted Rookery with FY 26 budget request
 - Septage meeting with ADEC on next steps for 65% PER and community outreach
 - Met to discuss and formulate a way to go forward with extending the life of the gravel pit
 - Dealt with some IT issues
 - Met at library with Nina and Melisa
 - Dealing daily with fallout from EO, OMB and federal budget and other decisions
 - I'll be attending the SE Conference Transportation Meeting and AML Winter Legislative meetings next week in Juneau
- Several other regular ongoing operational issues are dealt with as they arise.
- Any Council Questions or Comments?