



Denali Commission
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What is the Planning Workgroup?

Mission Statement

To support the practice of good planning at all levels. Good planning is defined as planning that is locally-driven, promotes cost-effective infrastructure that can be locally maintained, is environmentally sustainable, enhances the growth of a diverse economy, and assists agency responses to their defined needs.

The Planning Work Group response shall promote appropriate tools, funding and other opportunities for our customers.

Membership: Interested Parties are invited to participate in our meetings.

Community Planning and the Denali Commission

Sound community planning is the foundation for healthy, sustainable communities. Its importance is reflected in the Denali Commission's requirement for submission of a community plan with requests for funding. The Denali Commission Policies, as approved November 18, 2008, include the following Community Planning Policy:

"The Commission recognizes the importance of a community plan in the community development process. The plan demonstrates the community's goals and ability to focus on future initiatives.

The plan should be the community's starting point for any outside agency or business considering work in a community. Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes states that boroughs and first class cities established under state law shall be responsible for land use planning. In communities outside organized boroughs (and not first class cities), the task for identifying who is responsible for community planning falls to local leadership including recognized tribes in a community.

The Commission requires communities to provide a copy of their current community plan when submitting funding requests. The reason for this request is two-fold: 1) the plan provides a current economic, social, and infrastructure summary of a community and 2) the plan provides a prioritized list of projects for which the community is seeking funding assistance. The plan also explains how the community intends to sustain its existing infrastructure as well as any additional infrastructure. In general, any infrastructure projects identified for funding from the Commission should also appear as a prioritized infrastructure goal, or initiative in the community plan submitted by the applicant community.

Community plans submitted to the Commission are retained in the project file, and are also provided to the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to be added to the online database of community plans.

The Commission recognizes that successful project development is directly correlated to community planning. The Commission will make every effort to evaluate the benefits and potential costs of project investments against other community projects and initiatives, so that a holistic picture of community capacity and project development is utilized to make funding determinations. The Commission will rely largely on application and community planning detail to document this analysis, but may also utilize site visits and other sources of information.”

The Planning Workgroup meets monthly at the Denali Commission offices to address strategies for supporting communities to meet this requirement, and to share news, information, and resources relevant to those engaged in community and regional planning.

Co-Chairs:

State

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