

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Sitka****Federal Tax ID: 92-0041163****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

# Sitka - Nelson Logging Road Upgrade and Ownership Transfer

**State Funding Requested: \$2,343,000****House District: 2 / A**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Improvements to state-owned Nelson Logging Road and transfer of ownership and future maintenance to the City and Borough of Sitka.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$2,343,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,343,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) has applied for Nelson Logging Road Forest Highway Route Nomination and Project Support in the amount of \$2,343,000 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. After road upgrades, permanent ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the road will be transferred to CBS.

The Nelson Logging Road is 1.2 miles long and runs from Halibut Point Road alongside the Starrigavan estuary and creek to the City and Borough's Tony Hrebar Shooting Range, State Public Safety Academy Shooting Range, USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area and logging areas, and upper Starrigavan Valley in the Tongass National Forest.

This project includes safety improvements to the Halibut Point Road/Nelson Logging Road intersection; upgrading the roadway to 28 feet for two-way traffic; and upgrading both inadequate bridges. The roadway is also to be moved toward the south to raise the roadway above the winter and spring flooding at the Starrigavan Creek estuary and eliminate sloughing off of the roadway into Starrigavan estuary. The project also includes three parking areas at the Tony Hrebar shooting range; at the head of the USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area; and at the State Park Forest and Muskeg Trailhead.

Upgrading the Nelson Logging Road is a priority due to the mandatory use of the road year-round by the Alaska State Public Safety Training Academy. The Alaska State Troopers must have access to their shooting range year round for their Public Safety Training classes. Thousands of other users also drive or walk Nelson Logging Road for selective logging, access to trails, and access to the public shooting range and the Tongass National Forest.

The deteriorated condition of the road is causing both safety, (the Sitka Police Department has a record of four traffic

accidents in the last five years), and maintenance issues. There is inadequate sight distance at the intersection with Halibut Point Road. It is especially dangerous in winter when ice makes it nearly impassable. The road is so narrow in places that vehicles run into stumps along the edges of the road. Driving an ambulance to provide emergency services on Nelson Logging Road is almost impossible during icy winter conditions. The bridges also have safety concerns which should be rectified.

CBS requests active partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and State of Alaska Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Public Facilities, and Public Safety to keep Nelson Logging Road open year round until the entire upgrade and transfer of ownership to CBS can be achieved.

**Project Timeline:**

Design/permitting FY2012; Construction FY2012-2013.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

City and Borough of Sitka

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Marlene Campbell - City and Borough of Sitka  
Title: Govt Relations Director  
Address: 100 Lincoln St.  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Phone Number: (907)747-1855  
Email: campbell@cityofsitka.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## **FY2013 CBS LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST**

### **Project Title: STATE-OWNED NELSON LOGGING ROAD UPGRADE**

<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 2,343,000 (100%)</b>
<b>Funding Already Secured:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>FY2013 State and/or Forest Hwy Program Funding Request:</b>	<b>\$ 2,343,000 DOTPF (100%)</b>
<b>Additional Funding Required:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>City and Borough of Sitka Federal Tax ID Number:</b>	<b>92-0041163</b>

**City and Borough of Sitka has applied for Nelson Logging Road Forest Highway Route Nomination and Project Support in the amount of \$2,343,000 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The State of Alaska and DOTPF is encouraged to support this application or provide direct State funding to upgrade Nelson Logging Road and transfer it to City and Borough of Sitka for permanent ownership and maintenance.**

Nelson Logging Road is owned by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources but currently maintained by the City and Borough of Sitka. The road is 1.2 miles long and runs from Halibut Point Road alongside the Starrigavan estuary and creek to the City and Borough's Tony Hrebar Shooting Range, State Public Safety Academy Shooting Range, USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area and logging areas, and upper Starrigavan Valley in the Tongass National Forest. CBS has repeatedly asked the State to upgrade this road.

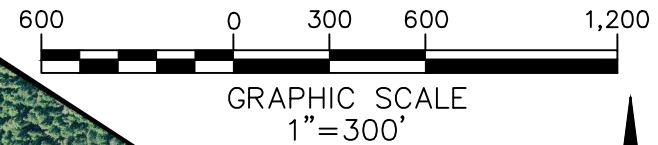
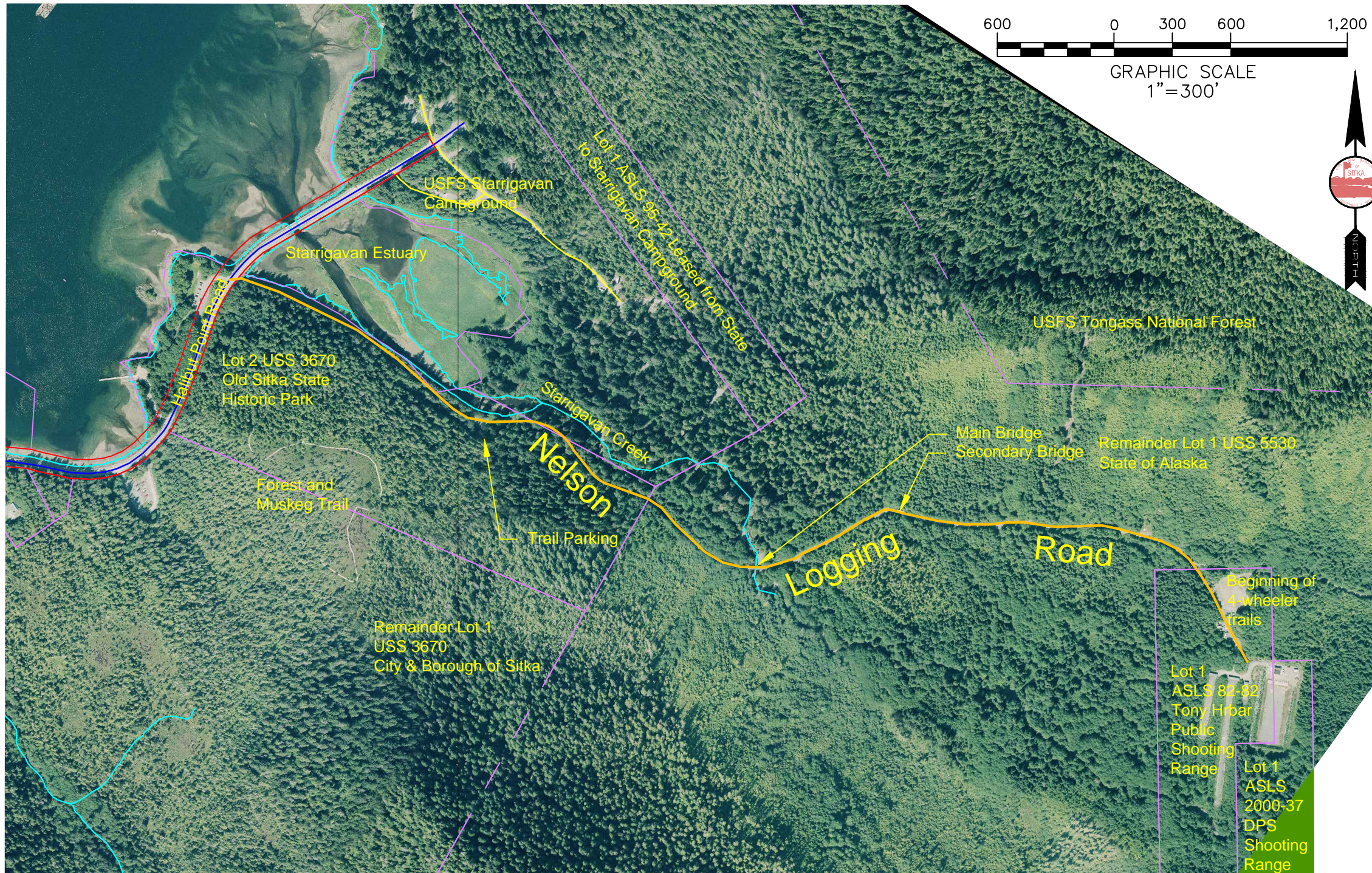
This project includes safety improvements to the Halibut Point Road/Nelson Logging Road intersection, upgrading the roadway to 28 feet for two-way traffic, and upgrading both inadequate bridges. The roadway is also to be moved toward the south to raise the roadway above the winter and spring flooding at the Starrigavan Creek estuary and eliminate sloughing off of the roadway into Starrigavan estuary. The project also includes three parking areas, at the Tony Hrebar shooting range, at the head of the USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area, and at the State Park Forest and Muskeg Trailhead.

Upgrading Nelson Logging Road should be a State priority due to the mandatory use of the road year-round by the Alaska State Public Safety Training Academy. This road is increasing in year-round use, but no funds have been committed for a substantial safety upgrade. The Alaska State Troopers must have access to their shooting range year round for their Public Safety Training classes. Thousands of other users also drive or walk Nelson Logging Road for selective logging, access to trails, and access to the public shooting range and the Tongass National Forest.

The deteriorated condition of the road is causing both safety (The Sitka Police Department has a record of four traffic accidents in the last five years) and maintenance issues. There is inadequate sight distance at the intersection with Halibut Point Road. It is especially dangerous in winter when ice makes it nearly impassable. It is so narrow in places that vehicles run into stumps along the edges of the road. Driving an ambulance to provide emergency services on Nelson Logging Road is almost impossible under icy winter conditions. The bridges also have safety concerns which should be rectified.

**CBS requests active partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and State of Alaska Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Public Facilities, and Public Safety to keep Nelson Logging Road open year round until the entire upgrade and transfer of ownership to CBS can be achieved.**





DRAWN:	TAD	SCALE: 1"=600'
CHECKED:	S. Weatherman	DATE: July 2010
DRAWING NAME	NelsonLRMap	
SHEET NO.	1	1

# Location Map Nelson Logging Road Sitka, Alaska

City and Borough of Sitka  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835  
TEL (907) 747-1804 FAX (907) 747-3158



**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**

**RESOLUTION 2011-22**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA (CBS)  
SUBMITTING CBS 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
TO STATE OF ALASKA AND 2012 LEGISLATURE**

**WHEREAS**, the City and Borough of Sitka advocates cooperating and sharing resources with the State of Alaska to maximize public infrastructure and services for the citizens of Alaska in the most efficient, cost effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska has inadequately maintained State owned facilities and passed unfunded mandates on to municipalities; and


**WHEREAS**, municipalities have suffered major budget impacts from State management of the PERS/TRS system, State harbors, State roads and utilities, and other State responsibilities which should be compensated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, adopts the following FY2013 State Legislative Priorities and urges the Alaska State Legislature to support them to the maximum extent possible:


- **State Revenue Sharing/Local Tax Relief** – The City and Borough of Sitka supports the State Revenue Sharing on a sustainable basis to equitably compensate Alaska communities for providing local services.
- **Education** – State funding should be increased to cover escalating transportation expenses, the rising costs of fuel and energy, and reasonable new costs to improve the quality of education.
- **Local Control and Maximum Local Self-Government Guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution** – The Legislature should defeat any legislation that creates new unfunded mandates or takes away existing powers of local governments. The State should fund existing unfunded State mandates.
- **Deferred Maintenance of Harbors** – The State should fully fund the deferred maintenance of State harbors transferred to local governments. In addition, the State should fully fund the 50 percent matching grants legislated by SB 291, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Fund, to assist with future harbor upgrades.

**NOW FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly submits the enclosed FY2013 City and Borough of Sitka Legislative Priorities, CBS Legislative Capital Project Requests and CBS Requests for State Funding for State Facilities in priority order to the 2012 Session of the Alaska State Legislature and State of Alaska.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

  
Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Colleen Ingman, MMC  
Municipal Clerk