

Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Platinum Airport Runway Extension

State Funding Requested: \$3,100,000**House District:** 38 / S

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Design and construction work to extend the existing runway at Platinum from 3,300 to 5,000 feet in length with state funds.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$3,100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$3,100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**None, federally funded airport in the past.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Platinum is located in the Calista region on the Bering Sea Coast below Red Mountain on the south spit of Goodnews Bay. It lies 11 miles from Goodnews Bay, 123 miles southwest of Bethel, and 440 miles west of Anchorage. The community relies heavily on aviation for passengers, mail, cargo, and its businesses of fishing and mining.

Currently the state owned gravel airstrip has a main runway that is the minimum standards of 3,300 feet in length by 75' wide, and a 1,924' long by 40' wide crosswind runway. Economic development opportunities in this area are very limited by the lack of infrastructure and the current runway length of 3,300 feet. Extending the main runway to a length of 5,000 feet will allow air operations by a Lockheed L382 Hercules which is the principal aircraft used for large air freight movements in Western Alaska. A longer runway will improve safety for the increased number of passengers now using the airport as a result of the new fish processing plant and will significantly increase the value of the commercial salmon harvest for the region by enabling larger more efficient cargo aircraft to haul fresh fish to market. In addition, the larger aircraft will enable the local mine operated by XS Platinum to bring in much needed equipment, parts, and supplies which last year delayed their summer operations by over 2 months due to having to barge in and logistical issues that are not required by aircraft. It will enable the existing mine operations to continue more efficiently, as well as, grow and expand faster as they have envisioned with the high price of mineral commodities that are produced in the region.

Platinum has commercial fishing, seafood processing, an active operating and growing mine, school, stores, and city government for employment and jobs in the area. Platinum is also a major supplier of aggregate rock material to area villages. Several residents hold commercial fishing permits, work in the local mine operated by X-S Platinum, and the community participated in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program and is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) CDQ group. Coastal Villages Seafoods operates a seafood processing plant in the community of Platinum, serving the entire region of Western Alaska from Scammon Bay down to Platinum. The plant employs over 200 workers and provides a market for over 600 commercial fishing permit holders in the region.

Bethel currently receives scheduled air cargo serviced 5 days a week by a Lockheed L382 Hercules. The added benefit of additional back-haul freight originating in the region at Platinum will improve the overall transportation economics for this service and provide savings in transportation costs for the regions' existing businesses. Indications suggest annual demand to move between 800,000 to 900,000 pounds of fresh fish alone.

The community is interested in developing a regional port, marine repair facility and dry dock, and a specialty seafoods venture or herring roe aquaculture project. A longer runway at Platinum will facilitate each of these prospective enterprises as well as the already existing fishing and mining businesses.

Project Timeline:

Design, Right of Way, and Permitting work will be completed in 2012.

Construction will occur in 2013.

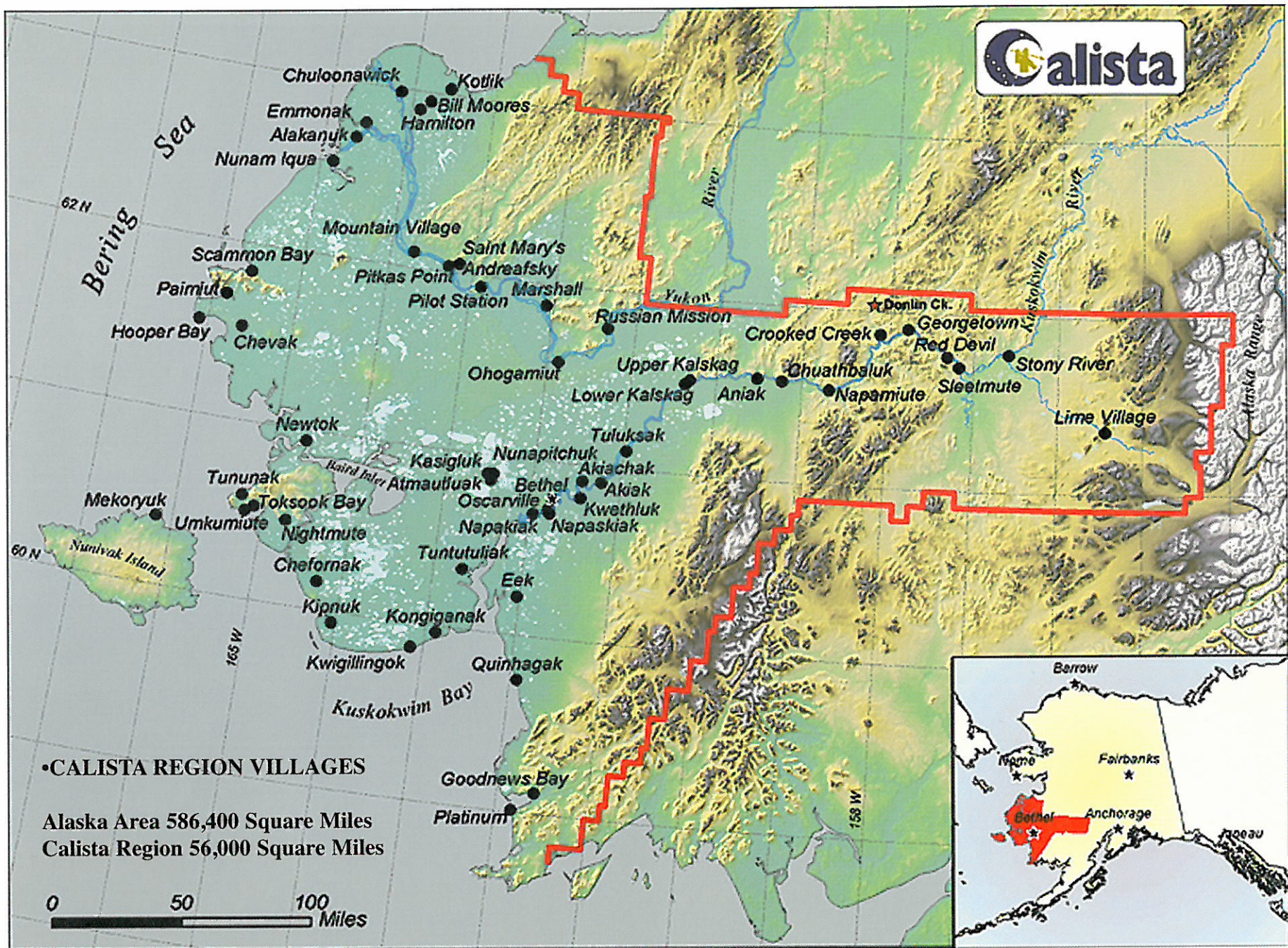
Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Current owner - ADOT&PF Airports

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Neil Rodriguez
Title: Project Coordinator
Address: 711 H Street, Ste 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone Number: 644-5553
Email: neil_r@coastalvillages.org

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



City of Platinum
P.O. Box 47
Platinum, AK 99651

Resolution Number: 11 - 01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PLATINUM, SUPPORTING THE
EXPANSION OF THE PLATINUM AIRPORT RUNWAY TO 5,000
FEET.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Platinum met on February 03, 2011 discussing the current airport runway length of 3,300 feet; and

WHEREAS, during the meeting, a unanimous decision was made by the City Council to request state funding for DOT to extend the runway at Platinum to 5,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, Platinum is in western Alaska, a region with limited economic opportunities and high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program began in Decemeber of 1992 with the goal of promoting fisheries related economic development in western Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Platinum is represented by Coastal Villages in the (CDQ) Program; and

WHEREAS, Coastal Villages mission is to provide the means for development of our communities by sensibly creating tangible, long-term opportunities that generate hope for all residents who want to fish and work; and

WHEREAS, Coastal Villages Seafoods operates a seafood processing plant in the community of Platinum that serves the entire region of western Alaska from Scammon Bay down to Platinum, that employs over 200 workers and that provides a market for over 600+ permit holders in the region; and

WHEREAS, Economic development opportunities in Platinum are limited by the lack of infrastructure and runway length; and

WHEREAS, a longer runway will improve safety for the increased number of passengers from our region who now use the airport as a result of the new plant, and a longer runway will also significantly increase the value of the commercial salmon harvest for our region by enabling larger, more efficient cargo aircraft to haul our fresh salmon out the market more efficiently,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Platinum strongly supports and respectfully requests State funding to extend the runway in Platinum to 5,000 feet.

PASSED and APPROVED, by the City of Platinum, this 3rd day of February, 2011 with a vote of

03 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 02 ABSTAINING

IN WITNESS THERETO:

By: Muhammad K. K. K. By: Norman Smith
Mayor Vice - Mayor

February 17, 2011



The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska State House of Representatives
Chair, Special Committee on Economic Development,
Tourism & Trade
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99821-1182

Lynden Incorporated
6400 South Airpark Place, Suite #1
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907) 245-1544
Fax: (907) 245-1744

Dear Representative Herron:

I am writing on behalf of Lynden, Inc. to express our support for the proposal to extend the state runway at Platinum, Alaska from 3,300 feet to 5,000 feet.

The lack of infrastructure and the current runway length of 3,300 feet limits economic development opportunities in this region. Coastal Villages Seafoods operates a seafood processing plant in the community of Platinum, serving the entire region of Western Alaska from Scammon Bay down to Platinum. The plant employs over 200 workers and provides a market for over 600 commercial fishing permit holders in the region.

Extending the main runway to a length of 5,000 feet will allow operations into Platinum by Hercules, 737-200 and DC-6 aircraft, which is the primary heavy lift aircraft used for airfreight in Western Alaska. A longer runway will improve safety for the increased number of passengers now using the airport as a result of the new processing plant, and will significantly increase the value of the commercial salmon harvest for the region by enabling larger, more efficient cargo aircraft to haul fresh salmon to market. Indications suggest annual demand to move between 800,000 to 900,000 pounds of fresh salmon product.

Lynden Air Cargo, Northern Air Cargo and Everts Air currently provide Bethel with scheduled air cargo service 5 days a week. The added benefit of additional back-haul freight originating in Platinum will improve the overall transportation economics for this service and will provide savings in transportation costs for the region.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities estimates a cost of about \$3.1 million to perform this work. Coastal Villages has agreed to provide the land needed for the project as an in-kind donation.

As the Alaska State Legislature continues its work this session, I urge you to support inclusion of this request in this year's capital budget. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

LYNDEN, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Jansen', written over a white background.

Jim Jansen
CEO



CALISTA CORPORATION

20000 1st Avenue North, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

February 1, 2012

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Capital
Room #518
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Re: Platinum Airport Runway Extension

Dear Senator Hoffman:

This letter is to let you know Calista Corporation strongly supports the Platinum capital funding request to extend the state Airport Runway to 5,000 feet in length.

The existing runway is the State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation Aviation minimum 3,300 feet in length, but cannot safely accommodate the Lockheed Hercules aircraft primarily used in rural Alaska to move products and cargo in and out from gravel airstrips. Currently, there are several area businesses providing much needed jobs and commerce which will benefit from larger, more efficient service, and hauling capacity of the Hercules aircraft. Platinum is one of the few communities in our region with more than one active industry operating. It has the Coastal Villages Seafood's operating a local seafood processing plant which provides over 200 jobs to workers and serves 600 commercial fishing permit holders; as well as, XS-Platinum an active operating mine in Platinum that produced over 5000 ounces of high value metals this past year and is adding two more operating plants. The local community and the businesses depend on safe efficient transportation and energy in order to be healthy, sustainable, and to grow. We understand Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) has even provided over \$415,000 in land towards this project in order to help move this project forward.

Calista strongly supports extension of the Platinum runway which will provide economic benefits throughout the region, transportation cost savings, increase passenger safety, improve efficiencies needed for cargo deliveries, and back-haul freight benefits. Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully,

Andrew Guy
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Representative Bob Herron
Mark Luiken, ADOT&PF Commissioner
Gilbert Kilbuck, City of Platinum

February 17, 2011



The Honorable Lyman F. Hoffman
Alaska State Senate
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99821-1182

Lynden Incorporated
6400 South Airpark Place, Suite #1
Anchorage, AK 99502
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Jim Jansen
CEO

Coastal Villages Region Fund CDQ Communities

