



# Transportation Program: What's New

Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit  
8 February 2024

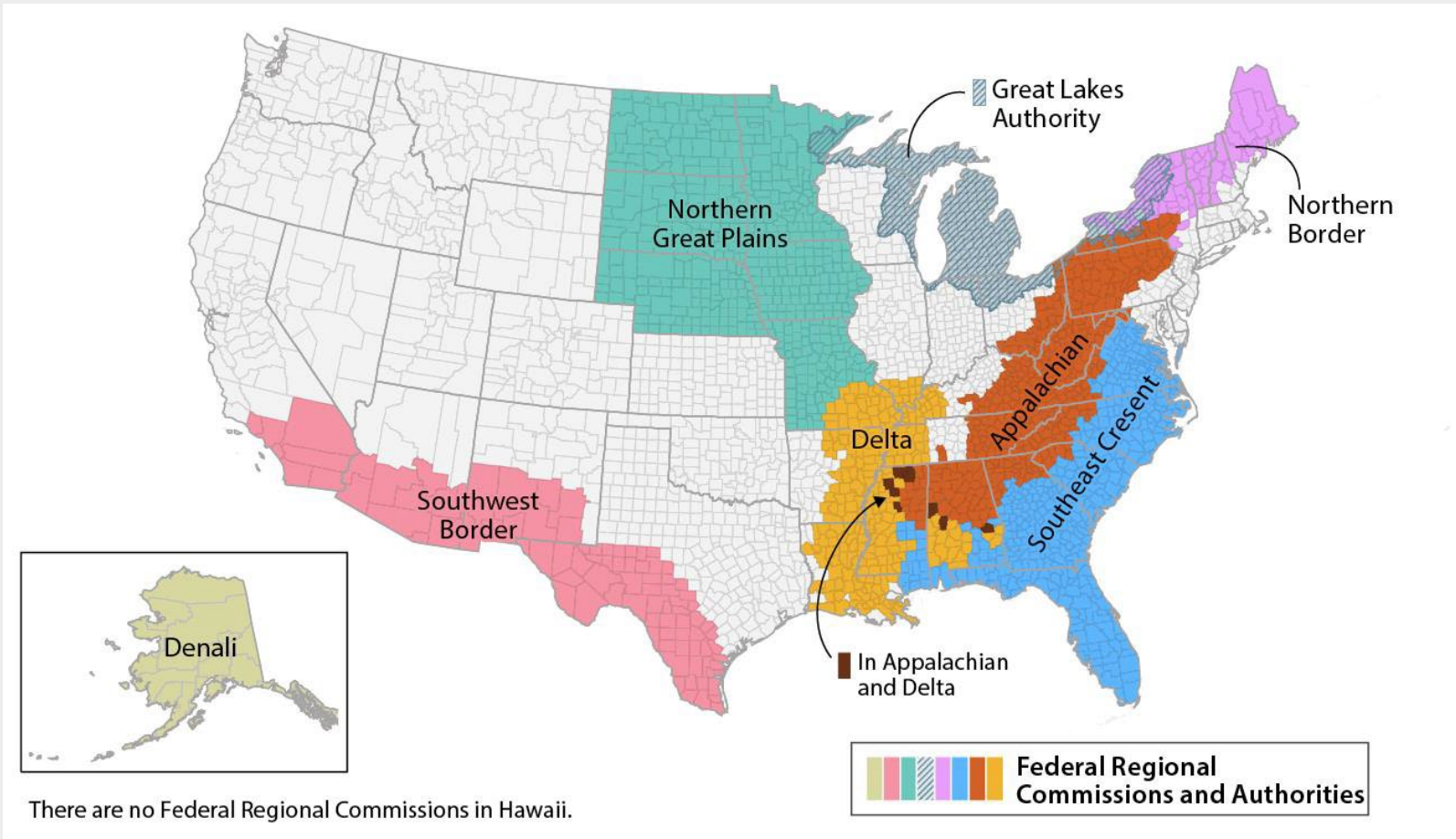
# Today's Discussion

The Commission: Past to Present  
Transportation Program

Active and Upcoming Funding Opportunities



# An Independent Federal Regional Commission



In 1998, Congress created the Denali Commission.

- Place-based, intergovernmental, and multifaceted in programmatic orientation
- Address Alaska's unique infrastructure gaps compared to elsewhere in US



# The Commission's Mission

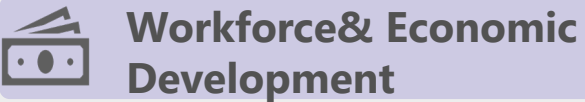
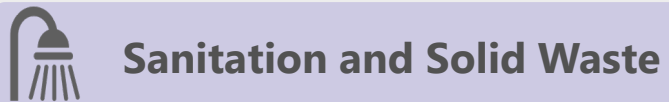
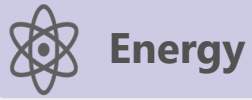
Mission: Promote economic development with a focus on critical infrastructure and workforce training in rural Alaska.

## Investments

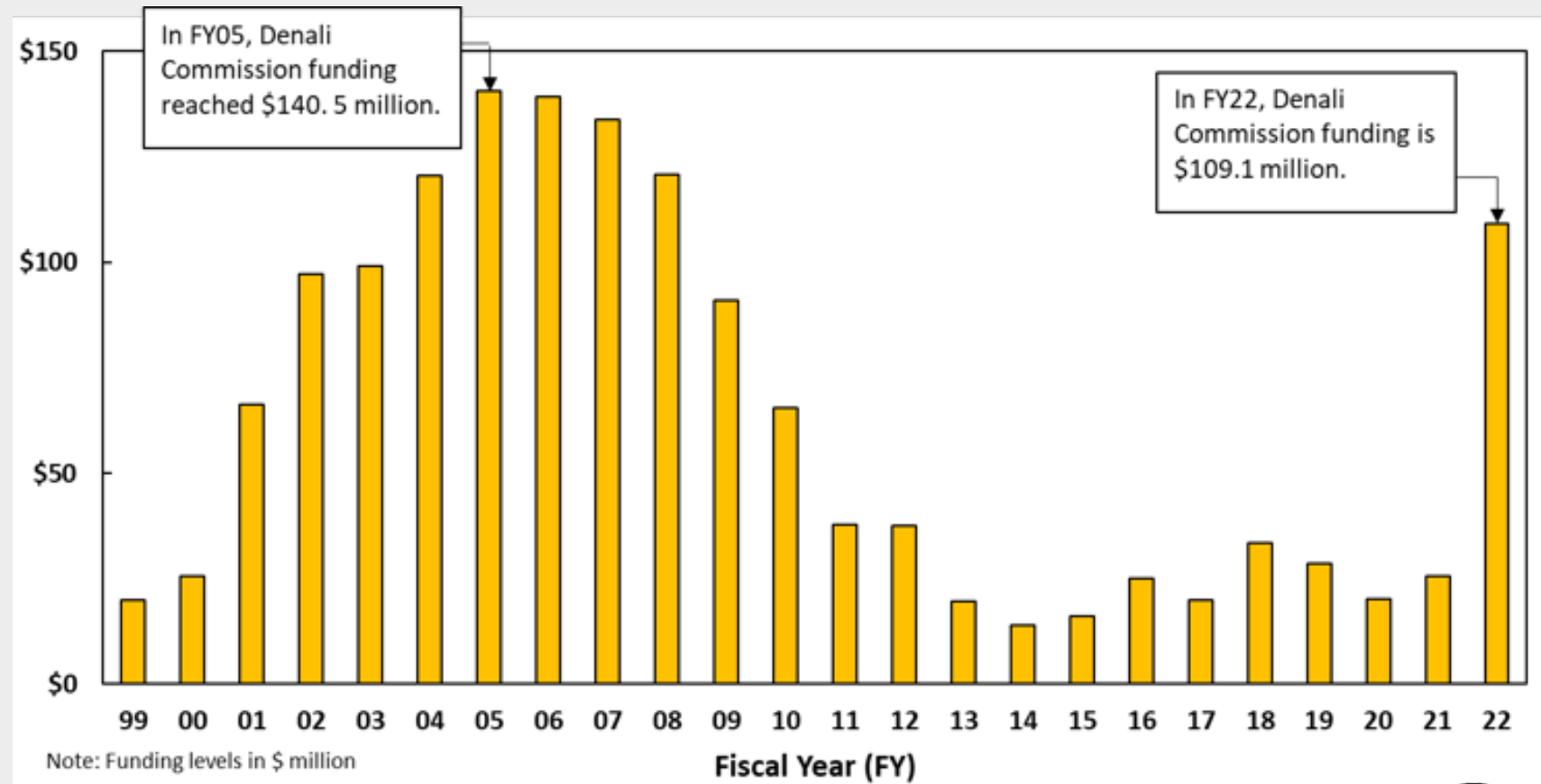
- \$1.7 billion invested in over 230 communities over 25 years
- Needs-based priority lists and competitive opportunities
- Complement, but not duplicate the work of other Federal and State agencies
- Includes maintaining, sustaining, and protecting existing infrastructure
- Partnerships to leverage or unlock future funding



## Denali Commission Programs



# Funding Levels – Past to Present



# The Commission Today

- Commissioners

Seven Alaskans including the Commission's Federal Co-Chair, Garrett Boyle:

- State of Alaska Co-Chair: Micaela Fowler
- Alaska Federation of Natives: Julie Kitka
- Alaska General Contractors: Alicia Amberg
- Alaska Municipal League: Nils Andreassen
- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations - Alaska: Joelle Hall
- University of Alaska: Pat Pitney

- Staff

- Small staff (15) plus IG, subject matter experts, decisions made in Alaska
- Numerous program partners
- Shared resources; common vision



# Denali Commission Special Tools

## 1. Transfer and Gift Authority

- Authority to accept funds from non-federal and federal sources
- Registers funds as expended, eliminating risk of “sweep-back”
- Becomes Commission funds with statutory flexibility

## 2. Non-Federal Cost Share Match

- Ability to match funds with other federal agencies
- Acts like private or state funds

## 3. No-Year Funds

- Does not expire at end of fiscal year
- Allows for long-term capital “banking”



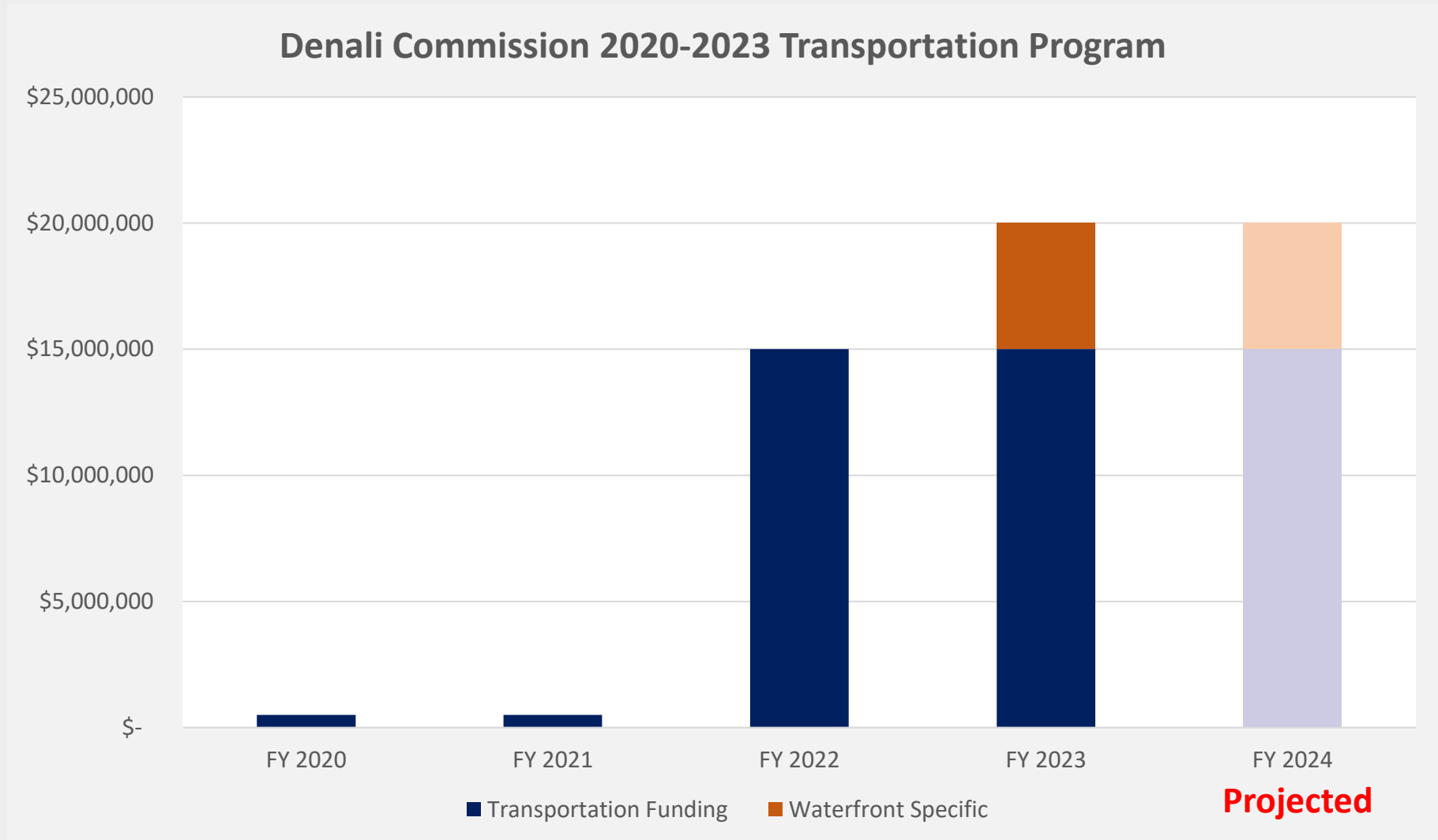
# Denali Access System Program – Transportation

- Funded >\$125 Million years 2006 – 2017
- USDOT, FHWA, FTA, BIA, MARAD w/\$400 Million match
- Surface & Waterfront Transportation Improvements
- Over 112 surface projects, 124 waterfront projects, 140+ communities
- Transportation Advisory Committee
  - Stipulated by Statute, represent regions
  - Appointed by the Governor of Alaska
  - Advise on transportation needs of rural communities
  - Provide project recommendations and priorities

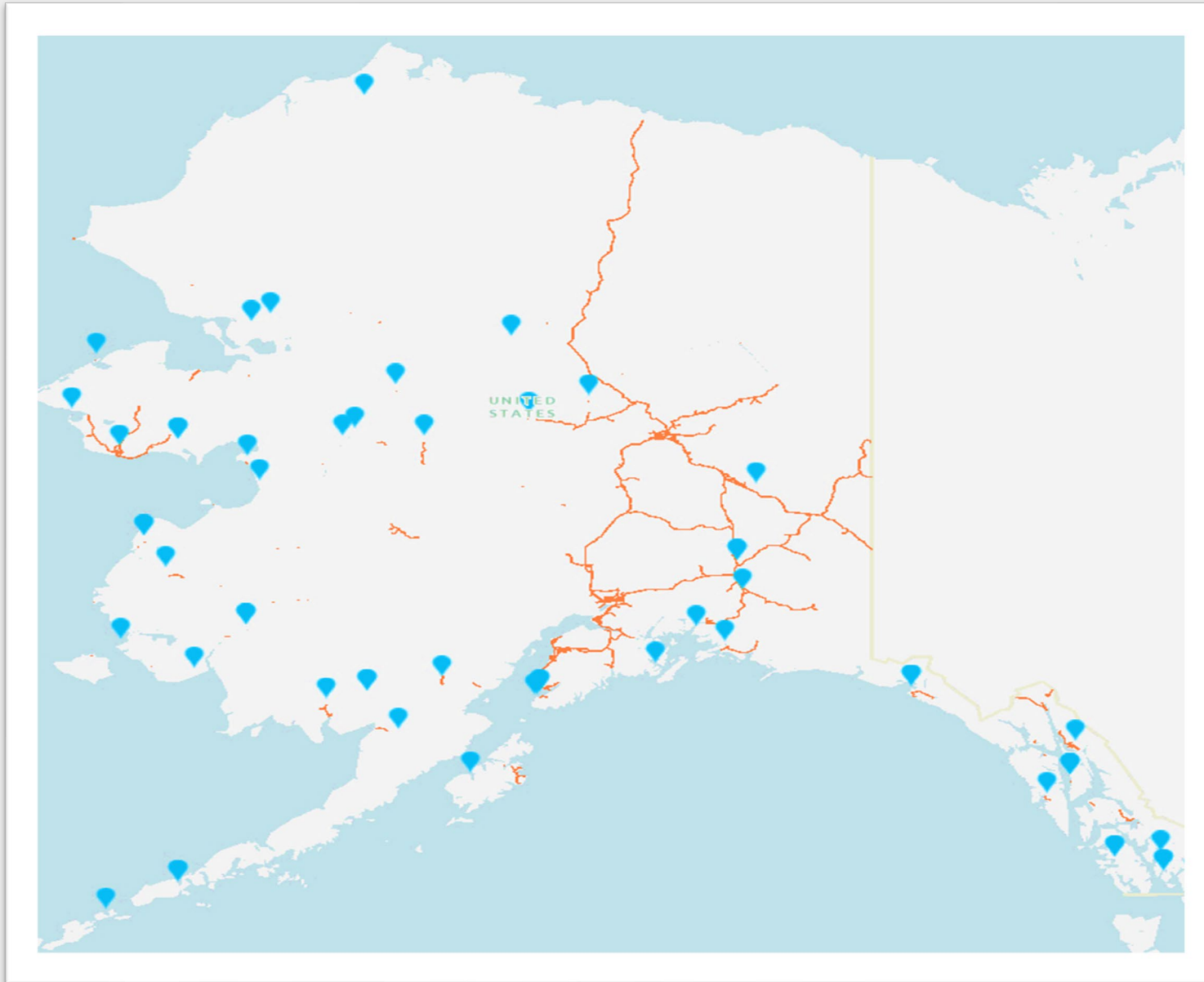




# Transportation Program Funding



# 2020-2023 Transportation Projects by Location



## Years 2020-2023 Total Transportation Investments

Waterfront	\$12,231,549.00
Surface	\$20,313,468.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,545,017.00</b>



# Transportation Projects

## Surface Transportation Project Examples

- Improvements to community roads and streets
- ATV board roads and boardwalks
- Trails
- Bridge rehabilitation, drainage and/or drainage structure development or improvement



## Waterfront Transportation Project Examples

- Small Ports and Harbors
- Community Docks
- Barge Landings





Photo courtesy of BIA/Greg Smith.



# Tununak Boardwalk & Trail Repair

Project #1755

Native Village of Tununak

Awarded in FY22

Total DC Award: \$428,185

Total Other Funding: \$142,820

Total Project Cost: \$571,005

Repair and maintenance of 1.7-mile trail in connecting Tununak to Toksook Bay with geogrid mats and Tununak boardwalk.



# Cross Trail Connector

Project #1748

Sitka Trail Works

Awarded in FY22

Total DC Award: \$197,500

Total Other Funding: \$235,581

Total Project Cost: \$433,081

Construct a 0.8-mile multimodal pedestrian trail connecting the cruise ship port to downtown business core via a divided, parallel route that increases safety of non-motorized travel.



Photos courtesy of Sitka Trail Works.

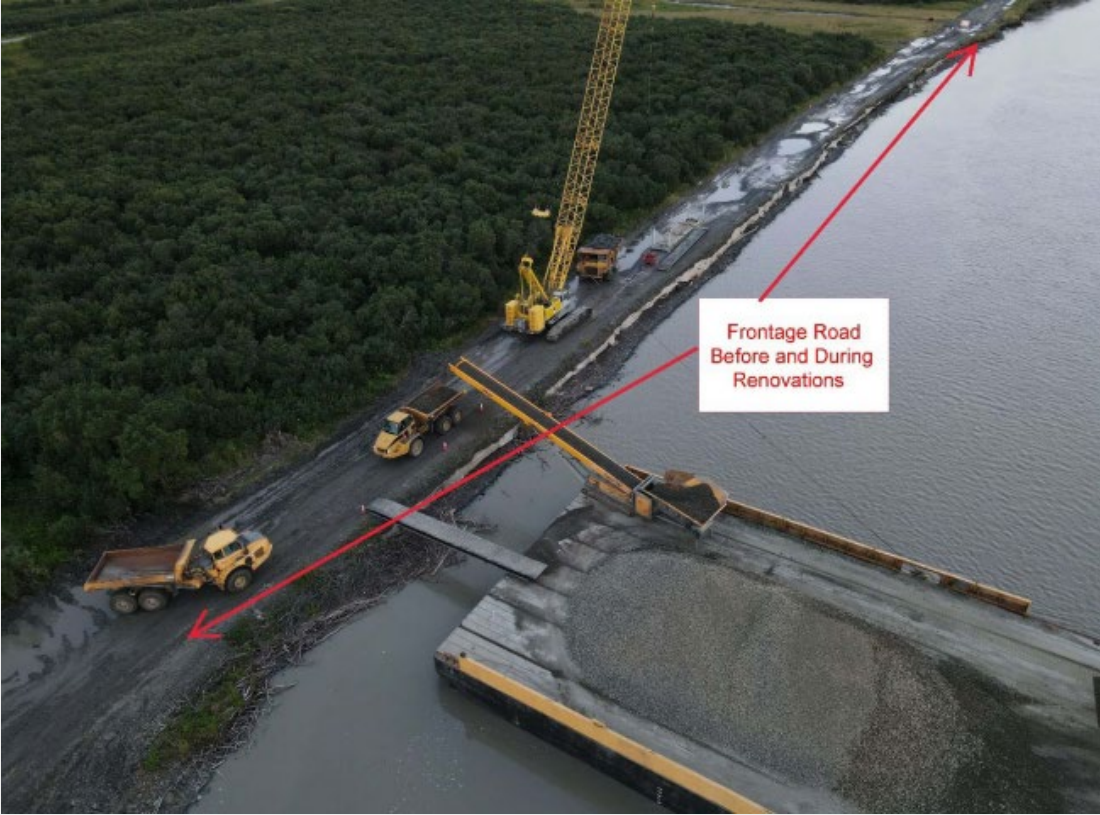


# Emmonak Road Improvements

Project #1657  
City of Emmonak  
Awarded in FY21

Total DC Award: \$409,390  
Total Other Funding:  
\$903,220  
Total Project Cost:  
\$1,312,610

Purchase and utilize  
aggregate materials to repair  
and renovate Frontage Road  
and Emmonak Road.



Photos courtesy of City of Emmonak/  
Joan Herrmann.



# The Commission: Past to Present

## Transportation Program

### Active and Upcoming Funding Opportunities



# FY 2024 Funding Opportunity

**Active:** Spring 2024  
Unified Funding  
Opportunity  
Announcement

<https://www.grants.gov>

Request Cap: \$2,000,000

## Eligible Programs



**Energy**



**Health Facilities**



**Transportation**



**Village Infrastructure Protection**



**Sanitation and Solid Waste**



**Workforce & Economic Development**



**Broadband**



**Housing, Health, & Wellness**

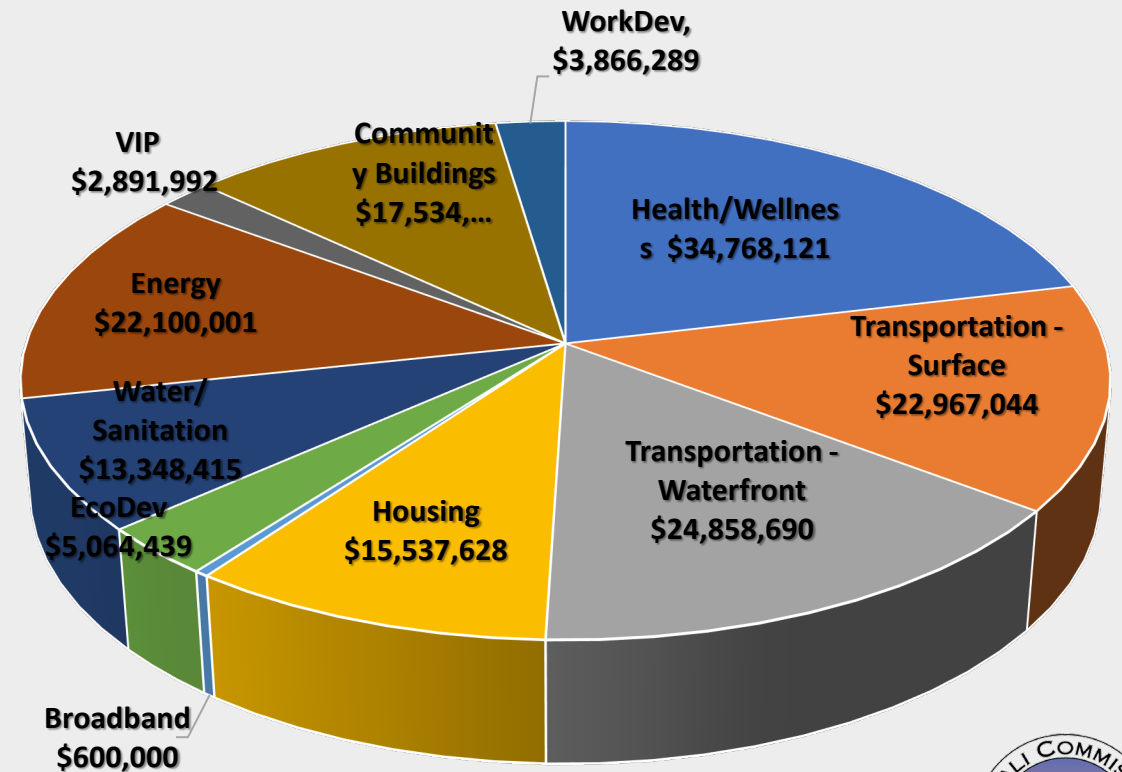


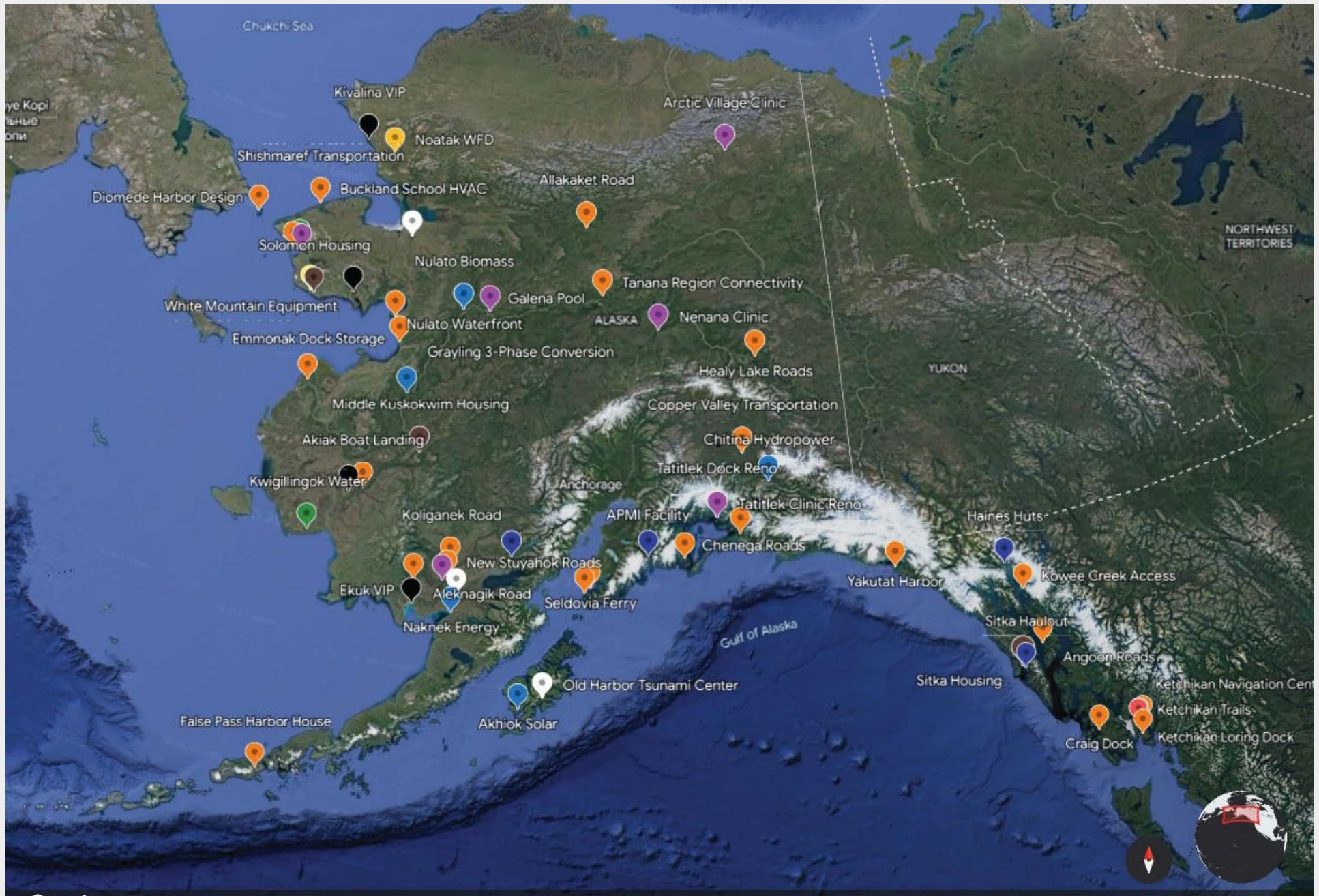


# 2023 Unified Funding Opportunity by the Numbers

- Application Period: February 2 - April 17
- **\$34,800,000** in funding available
- **197** eligible applications received requesting **\$163,537,225**
- Final recommendation for **\$33,947,298** across 75 projects published July 11
- Projects in **56** unique communities plus projects with regional and statewide impact

Breakdown in Funding Requests





# Application and Match Requirements

Application Section
A. Application Checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Distressed/Disadvantaged Community Status</li><li>b. Environmentally Threatened Community Status</li></ul>
B. Application Form
C. Application Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Project Narrative</li><li>b. Scope of Work and Schedule</li><li>c. Organization, Capacity, and Delivery Method</li><li>d. Partnerships and Leveraged Funds</li><li>e. Budget/Resources<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Budget by Cost Category (SF 424)</li><li>ii. Budget by Task</li><li>iii. Funding Summary</li></ul></li></ul>
D. Program Specific Responses, as applicable
E. Appendix

**Construction** grants where the Commission is the primary funder (50 percent or more of total budget):

- **Distressed communities** At least 20 percent of the project cost is required.
  - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. “Disadvantaged communities” in Alaska identified in the CEJST are also considered “distressed communities.”
- **Non-distressed communities** 50 percent of the project cost is required.

**Non-construction** grants ie: planning, design, permitting - No match requirement

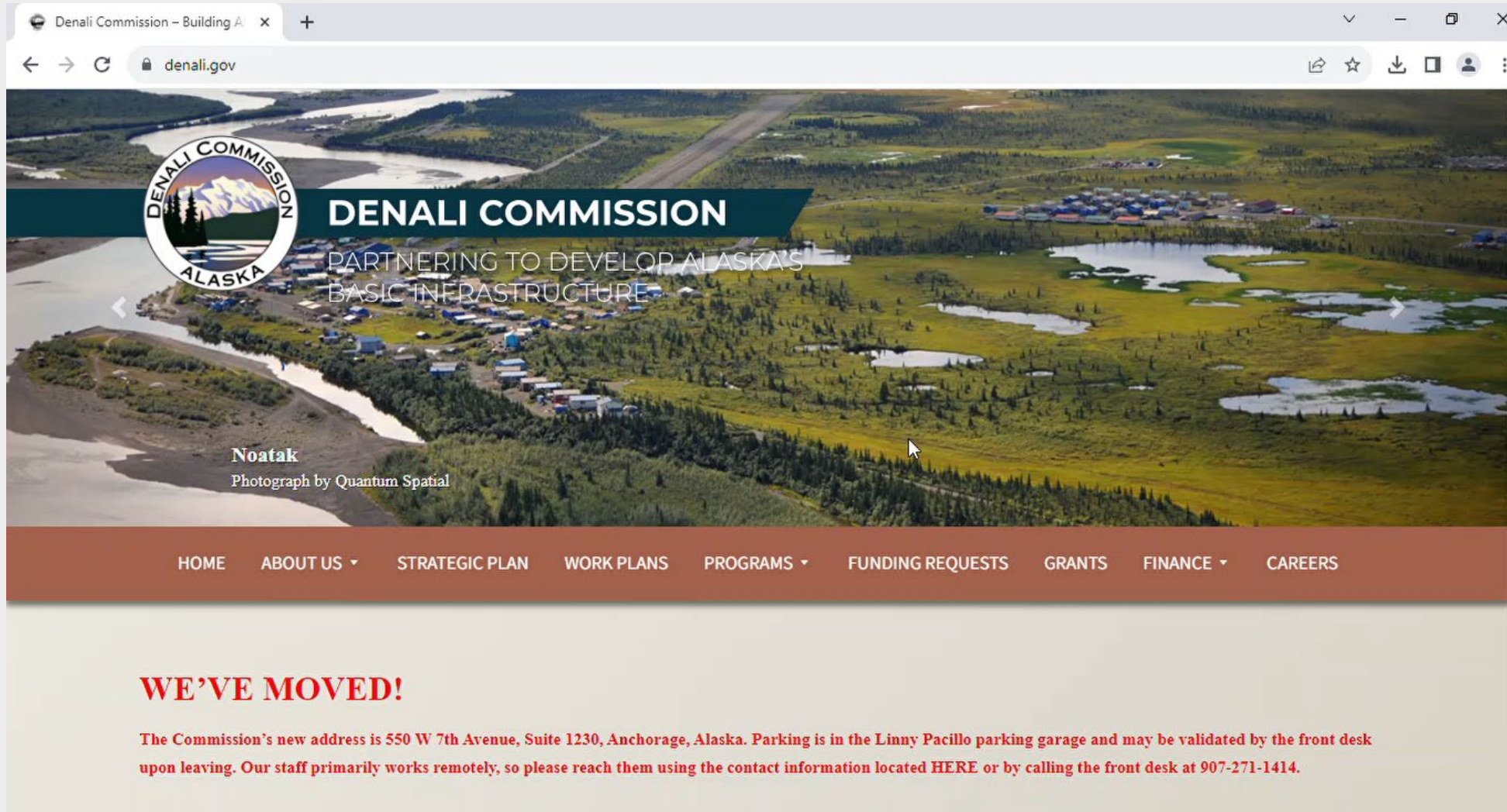


# Project Evaluation

<b>Evaluation Criterion</b>
Distressed Communities and/or Disadvantaged Communities
Environmentally Threatened Communities
Project Narrative
Scope of Work and Schedule
Organization, Capacity, and Delivery Method
Partnerships and Leveraged Funds
Budget/Resources
Program Specific Evaluation Criteria (if applicable)



# Past and Present Awards – Denali Project Database



Denali Commission – Building A

denali.gov

**DENALI COMMISSION**  
PARTNERING TO DEVELOP ALASKA'S  
BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Noatak  
Photograph by Quantum Spatial

HOME ABOUT US STRATEGIC PLAN WORK PLANS PROGRAMS FUNDING REQUESTS GRANTS FINANCE CAREERS

**WE'VE MOVED!**

The Commission's new address is 550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1230, Anchorage, Alaska. Parking is in the Linny Pacillo parking garage and may be validated by the front desk upon leaving. Our staff primarily works remotely, so please reach them using the contact information located [HERE](#) or by calling the front desk at 907-271-1414.



<https://cf.denali.gov/>



# Funding Opportunity Recap

**Open:** FY23 Application for Unified Funding  
Opportunity Announcement

(\$20 Million Expected for Transportation Spring FY24)



Scan for Statement of Interest Form





# Questions? Thank you

Jocelyn Fenton, Director

Nikki Navio, Transportation PM

[nnavio@denali.gov](mailto:nnavio@denali.gov)

[www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov)