



## CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.  
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687  
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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM NO. 91-34

FROM: Deputy Administrator

DATE: June 4, 1991

RE: Community Development Block Grant Application

The Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry is making application for a Rural Economic Development Initiative grant under the Community Development Block Grant program. The organization is requesting that the City of Wasilla be the sponsoring organization and the administrating agency for any funds received as a result of the grant application.

A public hearing on the purpose of the grant application, which is a requirement of the grant process, was advertised to be conducted by the Wasilla City Council on June 10, 1991.

Recommend that Council approve: WR91-30 authorizing the Mayor to apply for and manage grant funds on behalf of the Museum; and

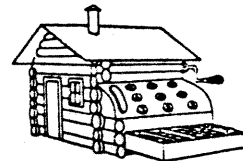
WR91-31 authorizing an agreement between the City and the Museum to cooperate on the application and implementation of the grant program.

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Robert E. Harris  
Deputy Administrator



**Rural Economic Development Initiative  
(REDI)  
Community Development Block Grant Program  
(CDBG)  
Competitive Grant Application**



**Name of Applicant** (*Borough/City*): City of Wasilla

**Date Received By DCRA**

**Contact Person:**

**Phone Number:**

**DRAFT**

**Co-Applicant or Joint Applicant** (*if applicable*)  
**Name and Address:**

Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry  
P.O. Box 909  
Palmer, AK 99645

**Contact Person:** Beatrice Adler  
**Phone Number:** 745-4493

**Type of Activity:**

Special Economic

Development

*Refer to Eligible Activities List on  
pages 5 & 6 of Handbook, items 1-9.*

**Project Title:** Museum Relocation Project

**Description:** Funds are sought for completion of the construction phase of this four phase project.

**Total Project Cost:**

\$700,000

**CDBG-REDI Funds Requested:**

\$100,000

**Certifications:**

I, the undersigned, certify that I am authorized to represent the applicant, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this application is true and correct, that the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, that the community is empowered by statute to perform the functions and provide the services encompassed by the project proposed, and that the applicant will comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in implementing the proposed project if it is selected for funding.

**Signature of Eligible Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary if Co-Applicant)

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Official's Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

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Describe the existing conditions, nature of the proposed project, and what the project will accomplish or resolve. To the greatest extent possible, the application should quantify the problem, the project, and its impacts:

Existing conditions:

The Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry is relocating from a four acre site it has occupied since 1976. That site is on the Alaska State Fairgrounds in Palmer. The move is due to expiration of a non-renewable lease held by the Alaska State Fair. Ten acres of land were purchased by the Museum in 1986 with funds from a State Capital Project Grant. That site is in Wasilla, adjacent to the new Wasilla airport now under construction.

The ten acre site in Wasilla has been cleared, graded, seeded, and fenced. Utilities have been brought to the property. A concrete slab has been poured for a panelized steel building to serve as the main exhibit hall. The building panels have been purchased and are on site. Railroad track has been laid and preparation made to move the Museum's collection of rolling stock. Eighty percent of the outdoor displays have been moved to the new site, with only aircraft and large boats remaining. The Whitney Section House, which serves as Museum offices, library, gift shop, darkroom and storage will also be moved. All displays and structures belonging to the Museum must be moved from the Fairgrounds by the end of 1992.

The Museum also occupies an 8,000 sq ft structure on the Fairgrounds in Palmer. It serves as the Museum's primary exhibition building, housing hundreds of artifacts of Alaska's past. Each year, more than 74,000 visitors view the exhibits on display. Half of the building is used to store many more objects of historical value. This building must be vacated. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (building owner) and the State Fair (owner of the property on which the building is situated) have agreed to permit continued Museum occupancy of this building until another suitable facility is prepared to accept artifacts and exhibits now housed there.

## Nature of the proposed project:

The single purpose of this project is completion of a panelized metal building at the Museum's Wasilla site. This will include exterior siding, interior framing, finish, plumbing, heating and wiring. The facility will provide 12,750 sq ft of floor space. The building will house a visitor reception center, restrooms, gift shop, Museum offices, and library. The largest section of the building will be an exhibit hall. An area at the rear will provide storage for artifacts not on public display.

## What the project will accomplish or resolve:

The Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry is an important component of the tourism industry in the Matanuska Valley. Over 74,000 visitors toured this Museum last year. Their passage through the community contributes significantly to the local economy. As an employment generator, tourist attractions such as museums, are responsible for job creation in service and retail businesses throughout the community.

Completion of this project will enable the Museum to pursue the goals of expanding staff and offering a greater variety of public programs. Many programs have been suspended since September 1990, when relocation of the outdoor exhibits began. Completion of this project will result in the Museum being able to resume programs and visitor services such as exhibits, guided tours, use of restrooms and picnic areas.

Project completion will provide over twice the presently available space for educational and Museum-related community activities. Currently, such activities take place at a rented facility or displace exhibits to create sufficient room. These activities include classes, films, meetings, and special exhibits. Over 6,700 students have participated in the education program during the past three years.

Completion of this project will provide secure and appropriate exhibit space for Museum artifacts which must be removed from the Don Sheldon Building. It will enable the Museum to proceed with its long-range plans for attaining accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This includes development of facilities in compliance with requirements for protection and exhibition of artifacts.

At the Museum's Palmer location, offices and gift shop are a considerable distance from the exhibit building. This causes problems with security and assistance to visitors. This project will resolve that problem; all visitor services, indoor exhibits and Museum offices will be located in the same building.