



# Municipality of Skagway

## MEMO

<b>TO:</b>	Finance Committee & Borough Assembly
<b>FROM:</b>	Brad Ryan, Borough Manager
<b>DATE:</b>	August 2, 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Update on Rock Slope Mitigation Project and Funding

### **Legislative Grant Funding = \$1.1 million**

In February of 2023, the Municipality applied for legislative funding for Phase I Design of the following rockslide mitigation project scope of work:

- Excavating the unstable rock mass at the top of the slope, which will be accomplished with conventional earthmoving equipment and drill and blast techniques.
- Replacement of the existing catchment area at the toe of the slope, with a new expanded catchment area. From here, the debris will be excavated and disposed of at an offsite location.
- Stabilize the rock mass in the head scarp of the excavation and add additional rockfall protection to the resulting slope. Rockfall protection will include the installation of draped mesh and attenuators on the slope as well as barriers and fencing on the dock.
- Replacement of the existing monitoring system at the North Slide, which is expected to be damaged as part of the implementation of the proposed mitigation activities.

The Municipality included in its request a total project cost estimate of \$28,384,125. However, the specific request to the Legislature was for \$1,100,000 for Phase I Design of this project.

In June of 2023, the Municipality was awarded \$1,100,000 to complete Phase I Design of the project as described in the submitted scope of work. At its meeting of July 6, the Assembly voted to direct staff to provide the grant administrator with the detailed scope of work for the project and complete a signatory authority form. Both documents were submitted, and the detailed scope of work was based on the legislative request that was submitted in February.

### **Congressionally Directed Spending Funding (tentative) = \$5.1 million**

In March of 2023, the Municipality applied for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds through Senator Murkowski's office for the following scope of work:

- Excavation of fractured and unstable rock and regrading of the material pocket that exists between the head scarp and the massive boulder known as Block 3.

- Measures to stabilize the rock slope exposed after excavation of the unstable rock pocket (i.e., pinning back the head scarp).
- Improvements to rockfall mitigation measures in the area to protect against failure. By securing this pocket, Skagway will greatly reduce the source of daily rockfall activity as well as relieve pressure on Block 3.
- This work is expected to take place between October 2024 and April 2026.

The Municipality included in its request a total project cost estimate of \$7,286,761. However, the specific CDS request was for \$5,100,000 for this project component.

In July, the Municipality was notified that this funding was included in the Senate bill, which passed out of committee. This does not guarantee funding but is a positive sign.

### **Rockslide Mitigation Project**

Municipal staff have been working through the year to secure funding for a long-term Rockslide Mitigation project as described above, and we have received positive feedback and support from the cruise industry for this direction. In order to proceed with the long-term project on an efficient schedule, staff needs to move forward soon with the design process so it is ready to execute the construction project when/if federal funds become available.