



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: December 28, 2021

RE: **Wolf Point Slope Stabilization**

At the December 16, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Council requested that staff communicate with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Ketchikan Ready Mix (KRM), concerns surrounding the recent Wolf Point rock slide of December 14, 2021. Attached for City Council review is a transmittal memorandum from Acting Port and Harbors Director Mark Hilson concerning above mentioned topic as well as communication sent to both the State of Alaska DOT and KRM. Should Councilmembers have questions and/or concerns regarding the Acting Port and Harbor Director's report, staff will attempt to respond accordingly.

PUBLIC WORKS / ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director
Kara Jurczak, P.E., Acting Public Works Director

CITY OF KETCHIKAN
Administrative Offices
PH: 907.228.4727
FAX: 907.225.8721

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Cushing, Acting City Manager
CC: Lacey Simpson, Acting City Manager
FROM: Mark Hilson, P.E., Acting Port & Harbors Director
DATE: December 27, 2021
SUBJECT: **Wolf Point Slope Stabilization**

At the regular City Council meeting of December 16, 2021, Mayor Kiffer and the City Council expressed concern about the December 14, 2021 rock slide that occurred at Wolf Point. Staff was directed to communicate with the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) regarding the recent slide and the conditions of the slope at Wolf Point. Attached is a letter that was sent to Kirk Miller of ADOT, and the property owner, KRM, Inc. The letter includes pictures taken by Public Works staff that were dispatched to the site on the day of the slide and asks both parties to work together to quickly address this urgent public safety matter. We will keep your office informed as we work with ADOT towards the goal of getting this important project prioritized.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Administrative Offices / Engineering
2930 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901
PH (907) 228-4727 / FX (907) 225-8721

SENT VIA EMAIL & USPS

December 27, 2021

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Attn: Kirk Miller
PO Box 112506
Juneau, AK 99801-2506

KRM, Inc.
4418 N. Tongass Hwy
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Mr. Miller:

Re: Ketchikan - Wolf Point Slope Stabilization

On December 14, 2021 another rock slide occurred at Wolf Point. This slide involved enough rock to fill the roadside ditch as shown on the attached Photograph Number 1. Thankfully, only a small amount of rock landed on the paved shoulder of the road and no one was on the paved shoulder at the time.

It appears that the most recent slide has destabilized a spruce tree, and possibly some rocks and/or overburden near the tree as shown in Photograph Number 2. As you are aware, the bedrock in this area is soft and fractured and lies at an angle. Overburden and rotten rock in this area as well as an existing boulder perched at the top of slope are shown in Photograph Number 3. While the roadside ditch was able to contain the majority of rock from the most recent slide, it is now full. All of the aforementioned factors indicate that the area is susceptible to rock from future slides landing on the Alaska Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) roadway, thereby placing the traveling public at risk. It is our understanding that ADOT&PF has designed a slope stabilization project for this area, and that ADOT and the private property owner, KRM Inc., were not able to reach an agreement on just compensation for right-of-way acquisition.

The condition of the slope creates an unacceptable risk to public safety. I am not familiar with the history of the slope, but it appears to present a significant liability exposure to the State or the landowner, or both. The situation needs to be addressed immediately on an emergency basis.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

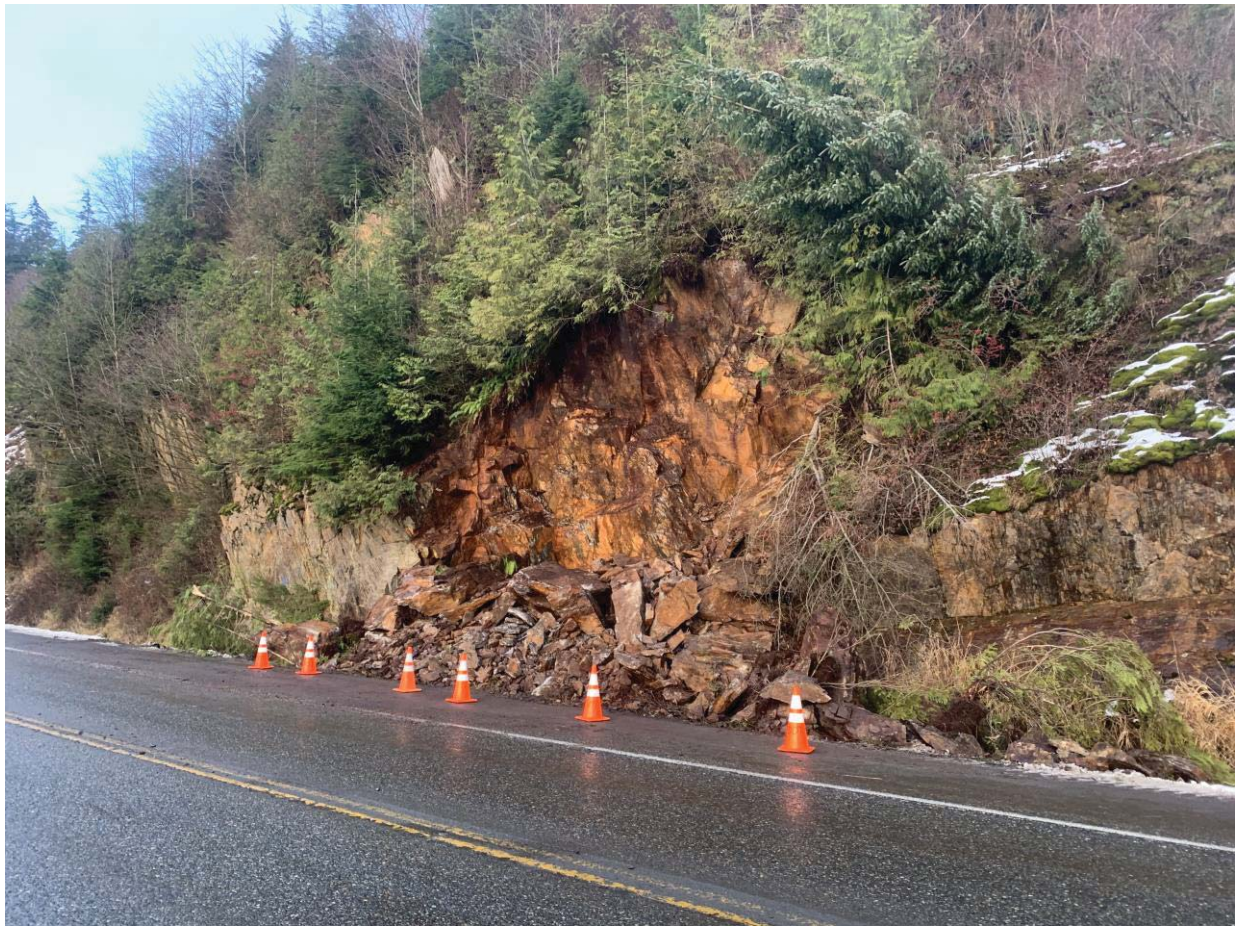
Sincerely,

Mark Hilson, P.E.
Public Works Director

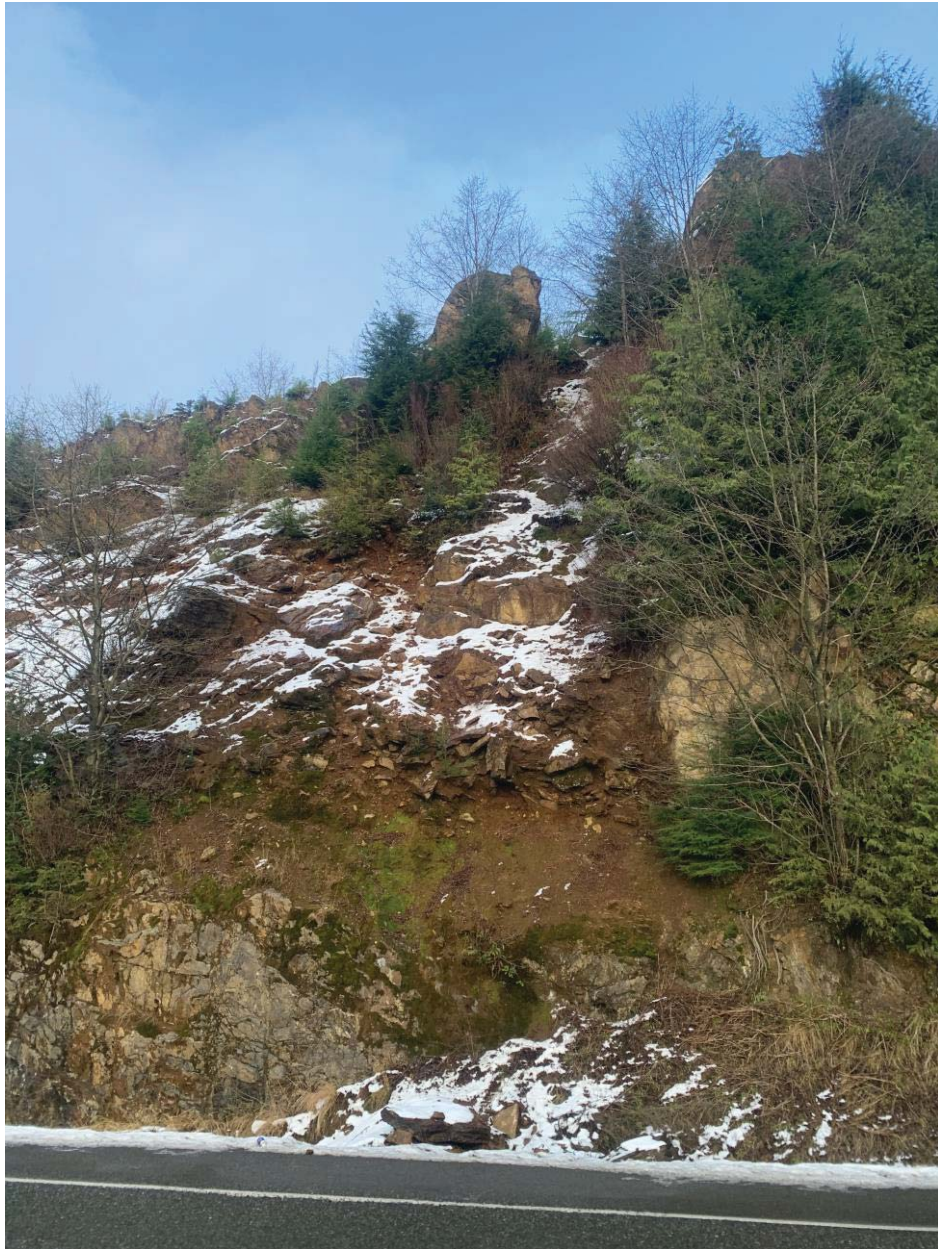
cc: Lacey Simpson, Acting City Manager
Dave Kiffer, Mayor
Lance Mearig, DOT



Photograph No. 1



Photograph No. 2



Photograph No. 3

Various Ketchikan Public Utilities Departmental Budget Transfers

Moved by Mahtani, seconded by Kistler, the City Council authorize the Acting General Manager to transfer \$193,000 from various accounts to various accounts as outlined in the Financial Analyst's report dated December 6, 2021.

Motion passed with Zenge, Bradberry, Flora, Gass, Gage, Kistler and Mahtani voting yea.

VOUCHERS

Mayor Kiffer recused himself and passed the gavel to Vice-Mayor Flora for Council consideration of vouchers due to a conflict of interest.

Acting City Manager Simpson answered questions from the Council.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Kistler, the City Council approved vouchers to Parnassus Books in the amount of \$165.69.

Motion passed with Bradberry, Flora, Mahtani, Kistler, Gass, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Simpson informed the Fire Department is handing out free COVID-19 testing kits to the community. She stated this has been a very successful program for the four days it has been up and running.

In answer to Councilmember Bradberry regarding recruitment services for the manager/general manager position, Acting City Manager Simpson informed that staff has received the proposals for a recruitment firm, which they will review and make a recommendation at the second meeting in January 2022.

Schedule of General Government and KPU Appropriated Reserves Through the City Council Meeting of December 2, 2021

In her report, Acting City Manager Simpson attached for Council review a schedule of the current balance of Appropriated Reserves of the various funds of General Government and KPU through the City Council meeting of December 2, 2021.

In answer to Mayor Kiffer regarding the rock hanging over Tongass Highway across from Wolf Point, Public Works Director Hilson stated the State is still in the design process and they are trying to get right-of-way acquisition. He said the State is currently working with the property owner to get his expectation in terms of compensation.

Mayor Kiffer stated if the State isn't going to make a decision, then we need to before someone gets hurt. He said at some point we need to look at what our options are.

Public Works Director Hilson said the safety issue was clearly explained to the State either in a letter or an email.

Mayor Kiffer said he would like a report back to Council on what steps we can take to help resolve this issue.