



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

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September 8, 2021

To: Mayor Ward
From: Buki Wright, Chena Riverfront Commission Chairperson

Letter of Support for "Chena River Safety Signage" Project Nomination Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Capital Improvement Program

Dear Mayor Ward,

The Chena Riverfront Commission is excited to support the Chena River Safety Signage project nomination submitted by the Tanana Valley Watershed Association (TVWA) for the FNSB Capital Improvement Program. The idea for this project was initiated by one of our Commission members, Wade Binkley of Riverboat Discovery. In 2018 he brought to us the idea of creating an informational sign that could provide both novice and experienced boaters with valuable information to help keep them safe while on the Chena River. This large sign would contain pertinent information on water and weather conditions to watch out for, a map of the river with float times from stop to stop, as well as rules of the road for wearing personal floatation devices and interacting with other river traffic. The Commission signed on and unanimously supported the effort in 2019 to create such a sign that would be placed at various public and private put-ins and take-outs along the lower Chena River. The project also gained support from many local agencies and non-profits who see value in river education and safety.

What's needed now is funding to manufacture and install the signs. The TVWA has started a local fundraiser for the river safety signage in addition to bridge wayfinding signs that would show boaters the road name on each bridge and interpretive salmon/habitat panels at key waterfront park locations. At a minimum, the Commission believes river safety signage would be a great fit for the FNSB Capital Improvement Program. This would not only be a low-cost project for the Program, but also a simple project to deliver for either TVWA or FNSB staff since the sign has already been designed and vetted by the Commission.

The Commission thanks you in advance for your consideration of funding this project. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at buki.wright@fnsb-bc.us.

Sincerely,

Buki Wright, Chairperson
Chena Riverfront Commission