



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FARMERS LOOP EAST TRANSFER SITE TRIAL OPERATION EXTENSION AND FUTURE TRANSFER SITE TRIAL PERIODS

June 23, 2017, Fairbanks, AK: The Fairbanks North Star Borough's Farmers Loop East Transfer Site began an improvement "trial period" on June 8, 2017. This site improvement partnership between FNSB and contractor Alaska Waste has been very successful based upon the positive number of completed surveys, citizen comments and telephone calls. Since the start of this trial period the views expressed have identified that the public is very concerned about the trial period ending and concerned that the Farmers Loop East Transfer Site will go back to the "old look". As a result of this feedback, the Borough's Solid Waste Department is looking into ways to extend the staffing at this site until October 31, 2017, or the onset of winter.

The staffing of this site cannot be accomplished with only borough solid waste staff; therefore a contractor must be used. The FNSB Solid Waste Director is researching whether the existing hauling contract can be modified or whether a new contractor will need to be hired. The additional costs are estimated to be \$17,000 - \$23,000 total for the 4 months.

Overall, the extension costs may be higher because of the additional contractor costs. This will be offset by cost reductions (at this site only) as a result of no vandalism, no graffiti, minimum littering and less commercial and City of Fairbanks residential use. Site operations are also safer and more pleasant for both the users and the contractor.

Future trial periods are being considered at other borough transfer sites this summer to determine if the residents from those areas provide similar responses to a staffed site.

This winter, decisions will need to be made regarding whether permanent changes in transfer site operations (staffing, set hours, "dumpster diving" /reuse, commercial use, COF use, littering etc.) need to be made, including possible code changes.

Long term, the hauling contract will be rebid in FY19. How the transfer sites are "organized" needs to be known before a bid package can be assembled. The trial periods and manned extensions are providing valuable information of how our residents would like their transfer sites to be organized. Realized long term savings are anticipated from transfer site operational improvements.

During the continued trial period, the transfer site will be open seven (7) days a week from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Residents will have access to dispose of their household trash, large and bulky items, hazardous waste, and the reuse area to either drop off or retrieve items.

FNSB Mayor Karl W. Kassel said, "The overwhelming positive response to our experimental trial period has been encouraging, and indicates we are moving in the right direction. We want to extend the trial period to be able to collect more data and citizen feedback to enable us to formulate the best long-term plan."

As a reminder, commercial trash and junk vehicles should be taken to the FNSB Solid Waste Facility located at 455 Sanduri Street, Fairbanks. Residential trash tipping fees are waived per FNSB Code No. 21.20.090 for "loads of nonhazardous waste brought to the landfill from a residence in a passenger vehicle, a pick-up truck, or a trailer with two wheels and a single axle will be considered minor loads if the vehicle is not registered in the name of a company or business or used for commercial purposes."

For more information on the FNSB's Solid Waste Division, visit their home page: <http://www.fnsb.us/pw/Pages/Solid-Waste-Home.aspx>

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