



City of Soldotna

Advisory Annexation Committee

JUNE 26, 2014

Annexation is...

.... The expansion of a city boundary to include more territory. Annexation results in the extension of city services, regulation, voting privileges, and taxing authority to the annexed area.

Annexation...

... is governed by the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) of the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

... must be petitioned to and approved by the Local Boundary Commission.

Annexation

Alaska law requires many elements be met for an annexation proposal to be approved. Extensive research and planning is required for a successful proposal.

Stages of Annexation

- ▶ Preplanning
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Petition
- ▶ Implementation

Preplanning

- ▶ Why do we want to annex?
- ▶ What do we hope to achieve? What are our goals?
- ▶ Does this fit with our long-term plans?
- ▶ What geographic areas should be considered?

Planning

- ▶ Research the ability of the City to serve the new area
- ▶ Consult with the public, local officials, and other interested parties.
- ▶ Identify and meet the standards for annexation.
- ▶ Identify the method of annexation.
- ▶ Adopt an ordinance authorizing the petition for annexation
- ▶ Evaluate the reasons that favor & disfavor annexation
- ▶ Be able to clearly state why annexation is appropriate or not.
- ▶ Create a transition plan

Petition

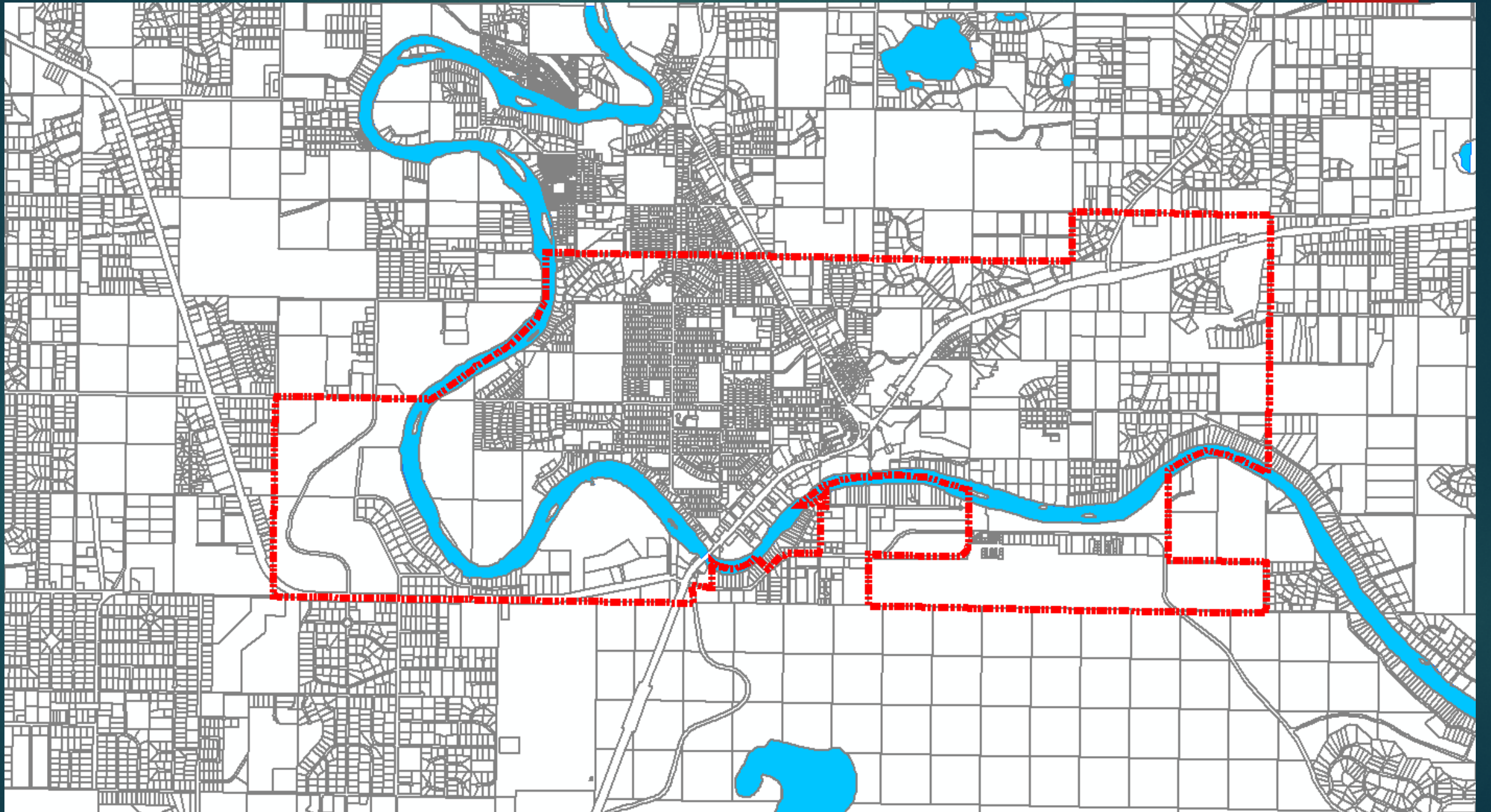
- ▶ Once the method, standards, planning & adoption of an ordinance are complete, the petition is prepared for filing with the Local Boundary Commission.
- ▶ May take one year or more.

Implementation

- ▶ If the petition is approved by the LBC or legislature, then annexation becomes effective immediately.
- ▶ Transition plan is implemented.

City Annexation History

- ▶ Soldotna incorporated as a fourth class city in 1960 with 332 residents and an area of 7.4 square miles.
- ▶ Today, the population estimate is 4,299 and our total area is 7.5 square miles.
- ▶ 2030 population projection for Soldotna is 4,674.
- ▶ From 2005 through 2008, the City initiated an annexation process that ultimately failed with the Mayor's veto. A petition was never submitted.



2005-2008 Annexation History

- ▶ June 2005 – First work session held by P&Z. One work session per annexation area was held: Funny River, K-Beach, Ridgeway, Skyview
- ▶ August 2005 – P&Z identifies regulation changes that will be necessary for the annexed areas.
- ▶ December 2006 – Administration makes annexation recommendation to P&Z; P&Z recommends approval and sends to Council for consideration.
- ▶ January 2007 – Council holds first work session & authorizes manager to prepare additional annexation information for the 4 areas.
- ▶ September 2007 – Council begins review of each of the 4 areas.
- ▶ February 27, 2008 – Petition to annex approved by council
- ▶ February 29, 2008 – Mayor issues veto.

Common Reasons to Annex

- ▶ To provide areas for future growth & expansion
- ▶ To manage growth
- ▶ To secure tax base and revenue sources
- ▶ To protect an area
- ▶ To adjust or clarify boundaries

Common Reasons to Annex

- ▶ Fairness & Equity
- ▶ To eliminate gaps in service delivery