

# Alexander Avenue Storm Drain Reconstruction: Advocacy in Action

ISER Policy Research Internship

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## Advocacy Homework- Shelly Hennessy, a resident of the neighborhood

Shelly Hennessy identified a problem with her home: water was leaking into the crawl space. Through her research, she found this to be a community-wide problem. She worked through her:

1. Condo association
2. Community Council
3. Municipality of Anchorage
4. City Assembly
5. State legislature

## Legislative Advocacy- East Thunderbird Condo Association (ETCA)

The Association's elected board, (a small-scale legislative body) decided to pursue the matter.

1. The ETCA appointed an Action Committee to address the storm drain issue
2. Shelly led the Action Committee

## Legislative Advocacy- Airport Heights Community Council (AHCC)

Most basic form of government in the Municipality (MOA).

1. Prioritized the project on its Capital Improvements Project
2. Wrote motions of support for the project, sent to the MOA and State government.

## Agency Advocacy- Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)

MOA and its Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) department suggested a few alternatives that were difficult for local residents.

1. PM&E suggested the RID process, with difficult funding mechanisms
2. The MOA Assembly requested funding from the state for Capital Improvement Projects

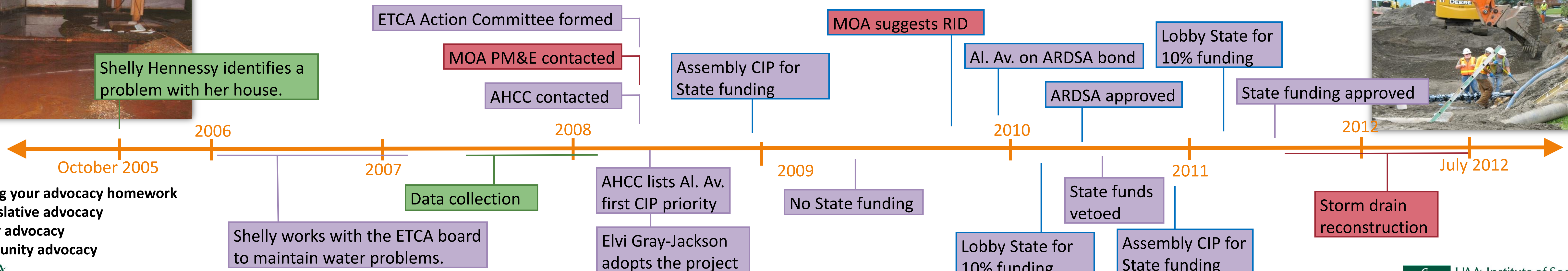
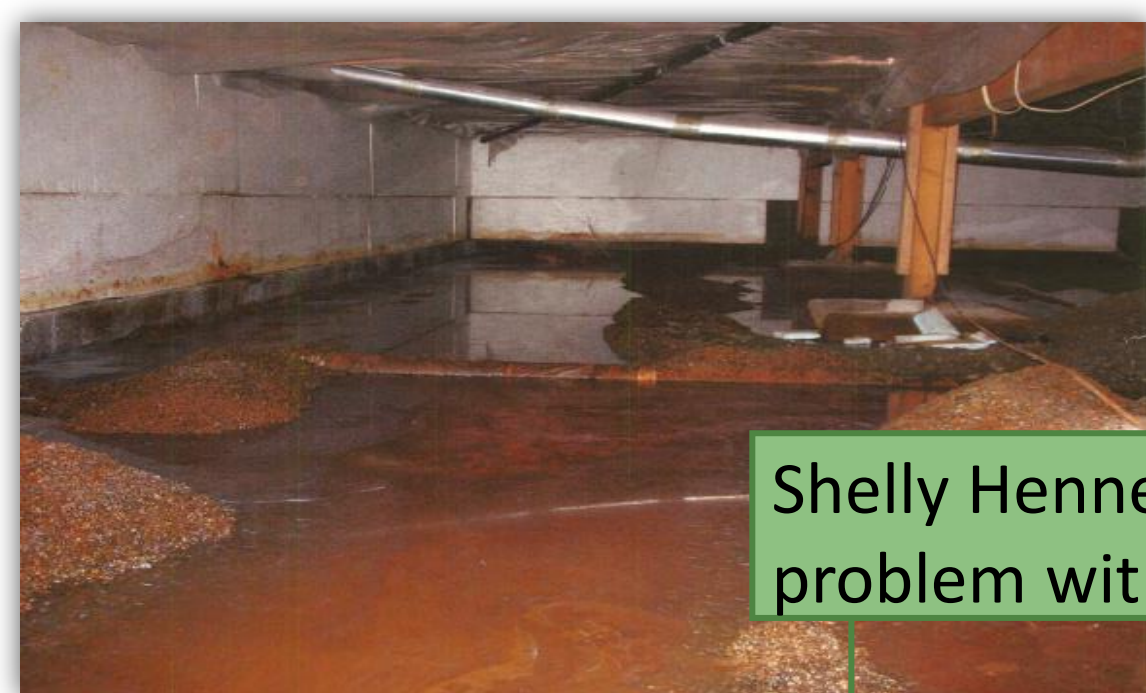
## Legislative Advocacy- State of Alaska

1. The project failed to pass through the Legislature once
2. Vetoed by the Governor, 2010
3. Passed the Legislature and approved by the Governor in 2011

**A successful grassroots community organizing process of more than five years which obtained a \$2.5 million grant to repair the storm drain system on the street, and save their homes.**

## Community Advocacy- Shelly kept her neighbors informed and involved through the process, and organized the effort through community outreach, representation, and regular communication.

**Acknowledgments:**  
The process was entirely documented through more than 800 emails and various printed documents. We would like to thank Shelly Hennessey for sharing the documentation, and various individuals for their help in documenting this project.



**Key:**  
**Green** -Doing your advocacy homework  
**Purple** -Legislative advocacy  
**Red** -Agency advocacy  
**Blue** -Community advocacy