

Introduced by: Mayor
Date: 09/06/16
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2016-049**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SELECTION OF G-SOUTH AS THE PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE FOR THE STERLING HIGHWAY MP 45-60 PROJECT AND
SUPPORTING THE JUNEAU CREEK ALTERNATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 (Cooper Landing Bypass) project has been under consideration by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (“DOT&PF”) and Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) for numerous years; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation were released for public review in April and May 2015; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2015, DOT&PF and FHWA announced the identification of the G-South Alternative as the preferred alternative for the project; and a final SEIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are expected in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the DOT&PF and FHWA recognized the importance of protecting the Kenai River Corridor in the purpose of the project and included reduced risk of spills in the Kenai River as a benefit of the project; and

WHEREAS, the G-South alternative does not adequately protect the Kenai River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Creek Alternative bypasses all crossings of the Kenai River, while the G-South route will require an additional crossing and replacement of an existing bridge; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of G-South would be built on the existing alignment near the river, such that 45 percent of the G-South Alternative is within 500 feet of the Kenai River or another Tier 1 stream, as opposed to 25 percent of the Juneau Creek Alternative.

WHEREAS, a small portion of the congressionally-designated Mystery Creek Wilderness Area and the southern end of the Resurrection Pass trail would be impacted by the Juneau Creek Alternative; and

WHEREAS, long-term protection of the Kenai River, the opportunity to prevent a major chemical spill in the river, and the opportunity to significantly decrease traffic adjacent to the river, should take priority in the selection of an alternative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough opposes the selection of the G-South alternative as the preferred alternative for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the selection of the Juneau Creek Alternative as the preferred alternative for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project.

SECTION 3. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough urges Governor Bill Walker, all state legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Marc Luiken, Commissioner of DOT&PF and Sandra Garcia-Aline, the Division Administrator of the FHWA to reevaluate the selection of G-South, and give adequate weight to the protection of the Kenai River.


SECTION 4. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to DOT&PF, FHWA.

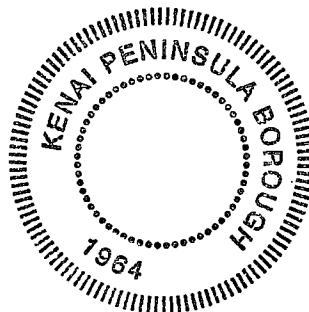
SECTION 5. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.


Blaine Gilman, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bagley, Cooper, Dunne, Holmdahl, Johnson, Knopp, Ogle, Gilman
No: None
Absent: Welles