Introduced by:	Tunseth
Date:	02/17/26
Action:	Adopted as Amended
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2026-011

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION'S PROPOSAL TO THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WOLVERINE BRIDGE

WHEREAS, as provided in the National Forest Foundation's grant application, the Iditarod National Historic Trail, first established by Alaska's Indigenous peoples, now serves as a vital transportation route between Seward and Nome; and

WHEREAS, the Iditarod National Historic Trail gained national recognition in 1978 when Congress designated it a National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, residents of Seward founded the Iditarod National Historic Trail Alliance in the 1990s to establish the Southern Trek recreation corridor, a planned 180-mile non-motorized route extending from Seward to Eagle River; and

WHEREAS, completion of the Southern Trek is identified as a priority in the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan, however, several critical trail segments and crossings remain unfinished due to funding and staffing constraints; and

WHEREAS, the National Forest Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is working to complete essential infrastructure along the Southern Trek of the Iditarod National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, the National Forest Foundation is applying for Recreational Trails Program funding to support construction of a pre-engineered steel or aluminum trail bridge spanning approximately 120 feet across Wolverine Creek within the Turnagain Pass segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, approximately 15 miles south of Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Wolverine Bridge will improve user safety, protect water quality by eliminating informal or unstable crossings, and support sustainable trail design standards; and

WHEREAS, completion of this bridge will advance development of a continuous non-motorized recreation route serving hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, skiers, and other trail users, while honoring access along a nationally significant historic route; and

WHEREAS, trails and outdoor recreation infrastructure contribute to community wellbeing, attract residents and visitors, and provide both short-term economic benefits through construction activity and long-term economic benefits through increased tourism and recreation use; and

WHEREAS, the National Forest Foundation has a demonstrated history of successfully leveraging private and public funding, engaging local communities, and delivering conservation and recreation projects that provide lasting public benefit;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports the National Forest Foundation's proposal to the recreational trails program for the construction of the wolverine bridge. The Mayor, Clerk, or designee, are authorized to issue a letter of support on behalf of the Assembly for this proposal and project by or before close of business on February 18, 2026. This statement of support should not be interpreted as a commitment to or intent to provide financial support from the Kenai Peninsula Borough for this project at this time.

SECTION 2. That this resolution is effective immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH 1964

Yes:	Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth
No:	None
Absent:	Truesdell