

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Brent Johnson, Assembly President BJ

**DATE:** January 26, 2023

**RE:** Resolution 2023- 012 , Supporting an Alaska Department of Transportation Reconnaissance Engineering Study in Kasilof (Johnson)

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Constituents have alerted me to safety challenges in the Sterling Highway Corridor that runs through Kasilof and Cohoe. The safety issues include: low-sight distance for traffic exiting Kasilof Mercantile; a 50-year old Kasilof River bridge that doesn't meet modern State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) standards; and, the intersection of Kalifornsky Beach Road and Pollard Loop with the Sterling Hwy, which is complicated by a long, steep hill and turning angles which aren't 90 degrees. Long ago this intersection was the scene of a child fatality and also, years later, the child's father was involved in a serious two-vehicle crash at the same intersection. Other safety challenges are numerous and corrective actions could include a lower speed zone.

DOT plans to conduct a reconnaissance engineering study in connection with replacing or upgrading the bridge. This is an opportunity to realign the Sterling Highway, add turning lanes at Kalifornsky Beach Road, increase the sight distance for traffic exiting Kasilof Mercantile, and provide a walking/bicycle lane.

Jocilyn Biloon, the Kenai Area Planner for DOT, was candid in stating that community support would help DOT obtain the funding necessary to begin the recon study. That support starts with putting this Resolution before the Assembly and the residents of the Borough.

Your consideration is appreciated.