

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

SB 142: Transfer of Railroad Land to DOTPF: Fairbanks

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is preparing to reconstruct Illinois Street which provides primary access to downtown Fairbanks from the north. Other important travel routes intersect Illinois and Barnette Streets, which adds to the travel demands and safety concerns along this corridor. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are currently inadequate or entirely absent.

The Illinois Street reconstruction project is also designed to support efforts to address riverfront enhancements in the area where the corridor crosses the Chena River. The goal is to create a road that celebrates Fairbanks' great traditions and provides a grand entrance into the Golden Heart City.

In order to complete this project the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities needs to acquire full interest in approximately 5 acres of property. The Alaska Railroad Corporation Act requires legislative approval for this action to proceed. Senate Bill 142 provides that authority and also that DOT&PF can provide a combination of cash, land of equal value or combination of both to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC).

There is no fiscal impact as DOT&PF costs are part of the construction cost of this project. Both DOT&PF and ARRC support the legislation.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 142.