

# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Mayor Dan Sullivan

Phone: 907-343-7100

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Charlie Huggins  
Senate President  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 111

The Honorable Mike Chenault  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 208

Re: Support for Establishment of a Fully Funded Project Reserve for Knik Arm Crossing Project  
and Passage of either HB23 or SB13

Dear President Huggins and Speaker Chenault:

The Knik Arm Crossing is a transformative project that will shape the economy of Alaska for decades to come. With the creation of a project reserve through the passage of HB 23 or SB 13, and the reserve's full funding in the FY 2014 capital budget, the bridge will move forward quickly into construction, and guarantees that it will be delivered to Alaskans under the most competitive financial terms available.

The creation of a project reserve ensures the best value to the State of Alaska. It demonstrates the State's commitment to this project and it allows the private sector to finance the bridge at more competitive interest rates. These lower rates will be reflected in competitive proposals from the private sector. This project is being developed with private equity, and generates toll revenues. As a result, it has a mechanism to repay the project reserve, and to generate a surplus to fund future statewide transportation needs over time.

This project is important to the future of our local, regional and state economy. I urge your support of legislation and capital appropriation to establish a fully-funded Knik Arm Crossing project reserve in the FY 2014 budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Sullivan  
Mayor

Sponsored by: Mayor DeVilbiss  
Adopted: 01/15/13

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 13-007**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE LAYOUT AND PLANNING OF A TOWN SITE IN THE COMMUNITY OF POINT MACKENZIE AND A TOWN SITE IN THE FISH CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Municipality of Anchorage have over 60 percent of Alaska's population; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Municipality of Anchorage comprise Alaska's largest and strongest regional economy; and

WHEREAS, to maintain a strong, growing and sustainable regional economy there is a need for additional commercial, industrial, and residential lands; and

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge is one of the Borough's legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge will provide access to developable lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for commercial, industrial, and residential uses; and

WHEREAS, the immediate development pressure anticipated to result from construction of the Knik Arm Bridge will be in the community of Point MacKenzie; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly adopted Point MacKenzie Community Comprehensive Plan includes a goal to:

"Encourage development of town centers. The town centers should include sites for a library, health clinic, post office, service station, school sites, community center, grocery store, café, hotel, police station, and multi-family development;" and

WHEREAS, construction and operation of the Goose Creek Correctional Center is increasing the number of jobs in and visitors to Point MacKenzie; and

WHEREAS, there is roughly three square miles of Borough- owned land adjacent to Alsop Road, near the Goose Creek Correctional Center suitable for development of a town site as envisioned by the Point MacKenzie Community Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Borough-owned land off Alsop Road is adjacent to the 14 square mile industrial zoned Port District, the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension, and the Alaska Railroad Terminal Reserve Area; and

WHEREAS, the Point MacKenzie Community Council unanimously approved a motion supporting the layout, planning, and development of a town site on Borough-owned land adjacent to Alsop Road at their regularly scheduled meeting of December 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, there will be a need for road and other infrastructure improvements including Knik Goose Bay Road,

Burma Road, and South Big Lake Road, and a bridge across the Little Susitna River, on the Borough end of the Knik Arm Crossing when the bridge is built; and

WHEREAS, the development pressure resulting from construction of the Knik Arm Bridge is anticipated to reach beyond the community of Point MacKenzie; and

WHEREAS, there is significant developable land in the Fish Creek Management Area; and

WHEREAS, the Fish Creek Management Plan, adopted by the Borough Assembly, states that land should be reserved for town center development for community services and a centralized commercial district; and

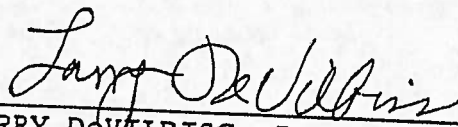
WHEREAS, the Fish Creek town center, in contrast to the town site in Point MacKenzie, could be a service center for small to mid-sized agricultural parcels characterized by less dense development and integrated into already existing summer recreation and winter trails to points far beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Fish Creek town center could become a logical junction for access to the west of the Susitna River and to the north side of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

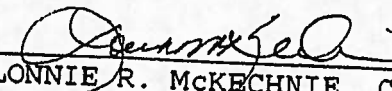
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, in anticipation of, and as a demonstration of support for a bridge across the Knik Arm and a bridge across the Little Susitna River, supports layout, planning and development

of town sites on public land adjacent to Alsop Road and in the Fish Creek Management Area.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day of January, 2013.

  
LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. MCKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Keogh, Woods, Arvin, Colligan, Salmon, Colver, and Halter

**ALASKA CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

217 Second Street, Suite 200  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907-586-1325  
FAX 463-5480  
AML1@pilotaska.net

**ALASKA CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

**RESOLUTION #2012-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA CONFERENCE OF MAYORS URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KNIK ARM BRIDGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Knik Arm Bridge has statewide economic significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Knik Arm Bridge will provide connectivity between the region's ports, rail corridors and interior natural resources, while providing for future growth potential; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States military recognizes the necessity of an alternate route between Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), the Anchorage Bowl, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

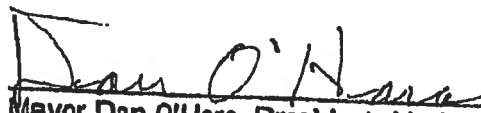
**WHEREAS**, the Knik Arm Bridge will open potential access to over 40% of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is at the northwest side of the Cook Inlet; and

**WHEREAS**, the Knik Arm Bridge will save nearly an hour travel time between Anchorage and Fairbanks as an alternate to the Glenn Highway, saving fuel, reducing emissions, and delaying the need for costly highway upgrades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Knik Arm Bridge will provide transportation and new service venues for Alaska's fastest growing populated area.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Conference of Mayors urges the Legislature to endorse the construction of the Knik Arm Bridge.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Conference of Mayors on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.



Mayor Dan O'Hara, President, Alaska Conference of Mayors

Attest:

  
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MAYORS OF THE  
CITIES OF HOUSTON, PALMER AND WASILLA AND  
THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MAYORS OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, CITY OF  
PALMER AND CITY OF WASILLA AND THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
ENDORING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KNIK ARM BRIDGE.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage hold over 60 percent of Alaska's population; and

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge will provide connectivity between the region's ports, rail corridors and interior natural resources, while providing for future growth potential; and

WHEREAS, the United States military recognizes the necessity of an alternate route between Joint Base Elemendorf Richardson (JBER), the Anchorage Bowl, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

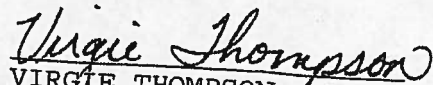
WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge will open potential access to over 40 percent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is at the northwest side of the Cook Inlet; and

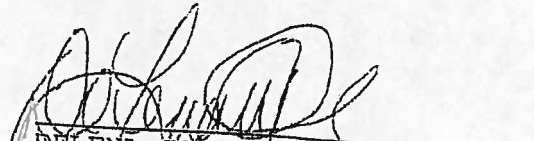
WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge will save nearly an hour travel time between Anchorage and Fairbanks as an alternate to the Glenn Highway, saving fuel, reducing emissions, and delaying the need for costly highway upgrades; and


WHEREAS, Knik Arm Bridge provides transportation and new service venues for Alaska's fastest growing populated area.

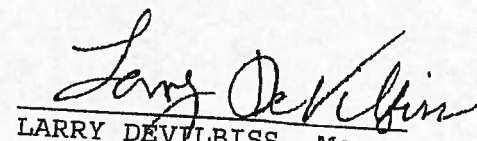
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayors of the Cities of Houston, Palmer and Wasilla and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough endorse the construction of the Knik Arm Bridge.

ADOPTED jointly by the Mayors of the City of Houston, City of Palmer, and City of Wasilla and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2012.

  
VIRGIE THOMPSON, Mayor  
City of Houston

  
DELENA JOHNSON, Mayor  
City of Palmer

  
VERNE RUPRIGHT, Mayor  
City of Wasilla

  
LARRY DEVILBISS, Mayor  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough



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**HOUSTON, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 12-14**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KNIK ARM CROSSING TO ALASKA'S ECONOMY AND SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING OF A PROJECT RESERVE TO ADVANCE THE CONSTRUCTION AND LOWER THE COST OF FINANCING FOR THE BRIDGE..**

Whereas, the 1.74 mile bridge and connecting 18 miles of road will bridge the Knik Arm;  
and

Whereas, the Knik Arm Crossing will create 1,500 construction jobs every year for four years of construction and thousands more after bridge opening, benefitting Alaskans through good wages and good work experience; and

Whereas, the bridge will support additional activity at Port MacKenzie, the nation's northernmost deep water port, allowing export and import of bulk commodities such as base and rare earth mineral ores, coal, woodchips, gravel, cement and steel pipe; and

Whereas, the bridge will allow access to affordable land for industrial, commercial, and residential development; and

Whereas, the Knik Arm Crossing will lower costs for Alaskan households by lowering the cost of freight to the Interior and North Slope— over \$300 million truck freight savings in the first 10 years

Whereas, the bridge creates the first leg of a surface link to western Cook Inlet where over 47% of Kenai Borough lands are located, lands which are rich in natural resources such as coal, hydroelectric, oil and gas and geothermal resources; and

Whereas, the bridge will be developed using a Public Private Partnership, which leverages private equity, optimizes the life cycle cost of ownership, and pays back the cost of the bridge over time through user fees in the form of tolls; and

Whereas, the State has determined that utilizing a project reserve ensures the best value to the State by reducing the cost of financing; and

Whereas, future tolls are projected to generate \$1 billion cumulative surplus for the State of Alaska in the 35 years after opening, which can be spent on transportation infrastructure throughout the state on highways, bridges or ferries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the City of Houston City Council recommends the establishment and funding of a Knik Arm Crossing project reserve in order for construction to proceed rapidly and for the state to realize the full economic benefit of the bridge, through construction jobs, better access to industrial, commercial and residential land, increased

1 activity at Port MacKenzie, and the first step toward accessing the rich natural resources in the  
2 western Kenai Peninsula Borough lands across Cook Inlet.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the City of Houston City Council authorizes**  
4 **the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City a joint resolution with the Matanuska-Susitna**  
5 **Borough, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla. The joint resolution will be presented to the**  
6 **Governor of Alaska.**

7  
8 PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Houston City Council, Alaska  
9 this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

10  
11  
12  
13 THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA

14 *Virgie Thompson*  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Virgie Thompson, Mayor

17 ATTEST:

18  
19 *Sonya Dukas*  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Sonya Dukas, City Clerk

22 Sponsored by; Mayor Thompson  
23



**Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.**

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946  
[www.aktrucks.org](http://www.aktrucks.org)

*The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska*

February 28, 2013

Chair Peggy Wilson  
House Transportation Committee  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB23

Dear Chair Wilson,

**The Alaska Trucking Association and its nearly 200 member companies, stand firmly behind the Knik Arm Crossing project and the associated needed legislation.**

We feel the Knik Arm Crossing project is a regional connectivity project that will provide a critical infrastructure link between our communities, as well as a much needed freight and services connection between Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna and the Interior part of our State. I have long supported the need for this project and am writing to you today to encourage the Alaska Legislature to move the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner.

The Alaska Trucking Association has been serving the needs of the state's trucking industry for over 50 years. We have continually given our support to the Knik Arm Crossing project as we understand the need for improved access to and from our ports, communities and interior Alaska from both a freight and a trucking standpoint. ATA is a leader in Alaska and nationally in promoting and projecting the interests of the transportation industry before the state legislature, congressional delegation and administrative agencies and courts. We understand that Alaska is a young state with vast infrastructure needs. We encourage you to support the Knik Arm Crossing legislative request to help us move this critical infrastructure link forward and reduce the cost to end users.

ATA supports the passage of HB23 to move this project forward.

Sincerely,



Aves D. Thompson  
Executive Director



*If you got it, a truck brought it...*