

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 21: Regional Transit Authorities

House Bill 21 aims to reduce traffic flow on highways by providing for the creation of regional transit authorities. The purpose of these authorities is to provide for public transportation by commuter rail or by other means.

HB21 would allow governing bodies of individual municipalities, or in collaboration with a second municipality, to create a regional transit authority. These authorities would provide transit services to bring hard-working commuters to their jobs, students to their schools, and fun-seekers to entertainment, shopping areas, and restaurants. They would provide mobility to residents of the cities as well as to large numbers of tourists, taking them to and from their hotels to historical neighborhoods and countless attractions.

More specifically, an RTA would be dedicated to building and operating a safe, efficient, and effective transportation system providing mobility, improving the quality of life, and stimulating economic development. Core principles of an RTA would include dedication to rigorous safety practices, top-quality customer service, efficient use of resources, and ensuring that the service is accessible for the disabled community and senior citizens.

I invite you to discuss this issue with me further and urge you to support this legislation.