

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor*

May 15, 2017

Senator Donny Olson  
Representative Dean Westlake  
Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair House Finance  
Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair House Finance

Through the Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-001

RE: Arctic Strategic Transportation & Resource (ASTAR)

Dear Senator and Representatives,

Our Department of Planning & Community Services has been working closely with the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOTP&F) in a planning effort that has made real progress toward developing our communities. These efforts were initiated under Memorandums of Understanding to further progress supporting access to our vast available resources surrounding us.

The ASTAR plan is the vision of our future, and is the foundation of a meaningful dialogue with Federal, State, and Local Stakeholders. There is a demand for transportation improvements on the North Slope, as the improved access will lead to lower costs of living with the development of permanent and seasonal roads. Resource development planning is vital to sustaining the State's budget; therefore, we respectfully request that the proposed budget of \$7.8 million be considered for the efforts to proceed.

Our people have subsisted off the natural resources of these great lands for thousands of years. We have the knowledge and experience that is deserving of recognition and consideration for decisions within these boundaries. We are committed to engaging and continuing our work with the planning group for the betterment of Alaska. Atautchimukta, "Let us unite as one."

Sincerely,

Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor

CC: Bill Walker, Governor  
Andy Mack, DNR Commissioner  
Marc Luiken, DOT & PF Commissioner