

Date: April 8, 2021

RE: Notice of Proposed Changes on the Use of ATVs and Snowmobiles on Roads in the Regulations of the Department of Public Safety

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The changes as proposed are likely to have effects beyond issues related to enforcement and necessitates a meeting of relevant affected agencies to jointly author the changes. A more comprehensive and thoughtful process is required for such a major change to the use of our public roadways. Thus, the proposed changes, as written, should be withdrawn.

- The proposed changes are contrary to the Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan which highlights strategies to reduce the number of ATVs and snowmobile fatal and serious injury crashes. We must not purposefully increase the likelihood crashes, injuries and fatalities.
- Second class boroughs without road powers, such as the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Mat-Su Borough have no ability to prohibit the use of ATVs and snowmobiles on their roads and no enforcement powers. Thus, to simply say that a local government can reverse these changes in their own jurisdiction is incorrect.
- Alaska statute exempts drivers' licenses for operators of snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles. Without a change to 02 AAC 90.210, a drivers license will not be required.
- State troopers and University of Alaska Fairbanks Policy, by policy, do not chase snowmobiles or ATVs due to the resulting danger of accidents with injuries or fatalities. There will be no enforcement.
- ATVs and snowmobiles do not turn, accelerate or stop like autos and current traffic control devices are not designed for these types of vehicles. This will necessitate erratic moves by auto drivers to avoid crashes with these vehicles.

There are so many issues on so many levels with the proposed changes. Others, like Dr. Belz, have eloquently pointed out the problems with the proposed changes, as written. Please see his comments to the House Transportation committee on April 6.

http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Meeting/Detail?Meeting=HTRA%202021-04-06%2013:00:00#tab4_4e

Please also see the comments that were unanimously approved by FAST Planning's Technical Committee and are going before their Policy Board next week. See page 79-112.

https://fastplanning.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/04072021_Packet_TC.pdf

A more thoughtful process and engagement of experts, local governments and the public is critical before making changes to the use of our public roads.

Thank you.

Donna Gardino
Fairbanks, Alaska
907-590-4401

CC: House Transportation Committee