

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

2005

Source
SR 2

Senate
Resolve No.
2



Supporting the efforts of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to improve transportation to and from Juneau and supporting development of the East Lynn Canal Highway.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS Juneau is the largest community on the North American continent not connected to the continental highway system; and

WHEREAS, because of its location and lack of highway access, all freight, vehicle, and passenger movement to and from Juneau is by air or sea; and

WHEREAS the Juneau Access Improvements Project is to provide improved transportation to and from Juneau within the Lynn Canal corridor; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities studied multiple alternatives, including increased ferry service, to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act requirements; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration issued a draft environmental impact statement for the Juneau

Access Improvement Project in June 1997; and

WHEREAS, following review and consideration of the public and agency comments received on the draft environmental impact statement, Governor Tony Knowles announced in 2000 that Alternative 2, the East Lynn Canal Highway with Katzeihin Terminal, was the preferred alternative for the proposed project; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide the greatest increase in flexibility and opportunity for travel; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would have the lowest maintenance and operating cost of all alternatives; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would have the lowest out-of-pocket cost for travelers of all project alternatives; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would eliminate 186 miles from the Alaska marine highway route, allowing ferries to be utilized on other routes in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would allow access to the Kensington Mine; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide an alternative to the all-marine transport of goods into Juneau; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide Juneau with an emergency evacuation alternative; and

WHEREAS the East Lynn Canal Highway would open up an entire region to recreation and tourism, which would result in economic development of benefit to all Alaskans;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate supports the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' efforts to improve transportation to and from Juneau within Lynn Canal; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate supports the Juneau Access Preferred Alternative 2, the East Lynn Canal Highway with Katzeihin Terminal.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable Frank H.

Murkowski, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Mike Barton, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and Reuben Yost, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.