

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT House Joint Resolution 42

### **“Proposing amendments to the constitution of the State of Alaska creating a transportation infrastructure fund”**

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HJR 42 will put a constitutional amendment before voters to change the Alaska constitution to allow a dedicated fund for Capital Transportation Projects.

In FY10 87% of our transportation budget came from the federal government. The current federal reauthorization legislation has expired and is being extended month to month until new legislation can be passed. The new federal reauthorization bill is unfavorable for states with small populations by emphasizing mass transit and green transportation. It favors toll roads, bridges, and other transportation that are self-funding. Alaska’s small population makes these self pay options prohibitive. There aren’t enough cars on the road, people on the ferries or residents landing at our airports to generate the scale of economy that is needed.

The roads, bridges, airports, ferries and other transit systems that make up our state’s transportation system are essential to mobility, commerce and economic development. These systems increase safety, enhance economic competitiveness, and lead to a better quality of life. To ensure Alaska has the infrastructure necessary to develop our resources as well as improve the living conditions for our citizens we must commit to funding transportation. Having an amount that is guaranteed from year to year will allow Alaska to manage current congestion, safety and maintenance projects as well as develop access to needed resources and energy.

Alaska is geographically the largest state in the country, and the future of the economic and social well being of its citizens is critically dependent on a reliable transportation system. This change to the State Constitution, allowing a dedicated transportation fund, is needed to create and maintain a modern, reliable transportation system for Alaska.