



SWAMC RESOLUTION 09-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO CAPITALIZE STABLE LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska's transportation system has fallen far behind the needs of Alaska for cost effective transportation which allows economic growth and the safe cost effective movement of people, goods, and services; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway System, the Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaska Airports, Alaska ports and harbors, and Alaska's local roads all need several years of significant funding for infrastructure improvement, upgrade and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the general appropriation process has resulted in significant underfunding of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Trust Fund is experiencing significant shortfalls, further contributing to a decrease in transportation funding for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the economic future of Alaska is highly dependent upon a quality, cost effective transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska transportation infrastructure is dependent upon a steady and reliable stream of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the development of an energy policy that works for Alaska requires a quality transportation system in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, estimates of annual funding needs for transportation infrastructure improvements, upgrades, and expansions exceed \$300 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is in a position to proactively develop a long-term transportation financing program.

-MORE-

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to establish a Transportation Trust Fund for Alaska or other suitable and sustainable funding mechanisms that generate at least \$300 million annually to accomplish the following purposes:


- Generate investment earnings to develop transportation infrastructure in Alaska.
- Improve, upgrade and expand State of Alaska roads and highways.
- Improve, upgrade and expand the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- Improve, upgrade and expand the airports in Alaska.
- Improve and expand Alaska's ports and harbors.
- Provide regular funding to Alaska's communities to improve, upgrade and expand local roads built to local road standards.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that not less than 15-percent of the total funding will be allocated to each of the five programs each year (roads and highways; Alaska Marine Highway System; airports; ports and harbors; public transit and local roads).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Thirtieth day of January, 2009.

Signed:

Attest:



Tom Abell
President



Michael Catsi
Executive Director