



Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell  
STATE OF ALASKA

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Craig Johnson  
Alaska State House  
State Capitol, Room 216  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Johnson,

As one who had the privilege of working with the late Governor Wally Hickel in business, politics, government and civic life since 1974, I was very happy to learn about your HB 115. It is a fine idea to concurrently name Minnesota Boulevard as the Walter J. Hickel Expressway in honor of the late Governor.

I can think of no better road to bear Wally Hickel's name. Governor Hickel always relished the beautiful views along that route, particularly frequenting what is now the Coastal Trail to walk or snowshoe. This road runs through much of the Anchorage life and infrastructure that Wally helped build: from the neighborhoods along Campbell Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain that he worked to develop from the 1950's on, to the Northern Lights Center of 1959 (the first modern shopping center in Alaska), and the downtown Hotel Captain Cook that he started in 1964.

This christening is a fitting tribute to the man who believed roads could be beautiful and enhance the environment. It reflects the progress we have made from the early days of rutted trails to the sophisticated transportation systems of today, while protecting the beauty of the surrounding land and views.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation. Please let me know how I can support this honor an extraordinary leader and of one of Alaska's great pioneers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mead Treadwell".

Mead Treadwell

Lieutenant Governor