

Introduced By: Mayor Sprague
Date: October 12, 2016
Action: Adopted
Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2016-039

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SELECTION OF G-SOUTH AS THE PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE FOR THE STERLING HIGHWAY MP 45-60 PROJECT AND
SUPPORTING THE JUNEAU CREEK ALTERNATIVE

WHEREAS, the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 (Cooper Landing Bypass) project has been under consideration by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities ("DOT &PF") and Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") for many years; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation were released for public review in April and May 2015; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2015, DOT &PF and FHWA announced the identification of the G-South Alternative as the preferred alternative for the project; and a final SEIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are expected in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the DOT &PF and FHWA recognized the importance of protecting the Kenai River Corridor in the purpose of the project and included reduced risk of spills in the Kenai River as a benefit of the project; and

WHEREAS, the G-South alternative does not adequately protect the Kenai River Corridor and will require an additional crossing and replacement of an existing bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Creek Alternative bypasses all crossings of the Kenai River; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of G-South would be built on the existing alignment near the river, such that 45 percent of the G-South Alternative is within 500 feet of the river or another Tier 1 stream, as opposed to 25 percent of the Juneau Creek Alternative; and

WHEREAS, a small portion of the congressionally-designated Mystery Creek Wilderness Area and the southern end of the Resurrection Pass trail would be impacted by the Juneau Creek Alternative; and

WHEREAS, long-term protection of the Kenai River, the opportunity to prevent a major chemical spill in the river, and the opportunity to significantly decrease traffic adjacent to the river, should take priority in the selection of an alternative; and

WHEREAS, although the project area is not within Soldotna City Limits, the long-term health and protection of the Kenai River are vitally important to the city;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Soldotna City Council opposes the selection of the G-South alternative as the preferred alternative for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project.

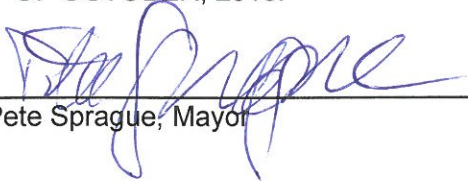
Section 2. That the Soldotna City Council supports the selection of the Juneau Creek Alternative as the preferred alternative for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project.

Section 3. That the Soldotna City Council urges Governor Bill Walker, all state legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Marc Luiken, Commissioner of DOT &PF and Sandra Garcia-Aline, the Division Administrator of the FHWA to reevaluate the selection of G-South, and give adequate weight to the protection of the Kenai River This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to DOT &PF, FHWA.

Section 5. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 12TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016.



Pete Sprague, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michelle M. Saner, CMC, City Clerk

Yes: Cashman, Murphy, Baxter, Whitney, Daniels, Manley
No: None