



Suggested by: Administration

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, 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 numerous 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,

WHEREAS, the Juneau Creek Alternative bypasses all crossings of the Kenai River, while the G-South route will require an additional crossing and replacement of an existing bridge; 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 Kenai 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.

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

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

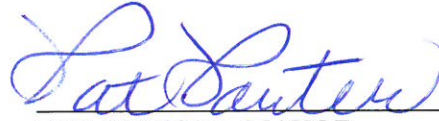
SECTION 2. That the Kenai City Council supports the selection of the Juneau Creek Alternative as the preferred alternative for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project.

SECTION 3. That the Kenai City Council urges Governor Bill Walker, all state legislators representing the City of Kenai, 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.

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

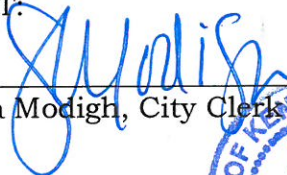
SECTION 5. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 5th day of October, 2016.



PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

