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SB 129 - Sponsor Statement

MATT GLOVER BIKE PATH

"An Act naming the Matt Glover Bike Path."

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) is currently working on a paved bicycle/pedestrian path along the Richardson Highway starting near the intersection of Airport Way/Richardson Highway to the Badger Road/Old Richardson Highway intersection. This project will connect two existing paths to create a continuous path between the two cities. For decades, there has been no way for pedestrians to walk or bike safely between Fairbanks and North Pole. This path, referred to as the MP 357-362 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path, will finally connect these two cities and increase pedestrian safety. Currently DOTPF staff are surveying and clearing the project limits, and the project is planned to be done by the fall of 2024.

With support from the Fairbanks Cycle Club, this legislation proposes to name the MP 357-362 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path after the late Matt Glover who was an avid cyclist and member of the cycling community. Matt Glover participated in many local rides including the Nenana-Rama, the Chena Hot Springs Bicycle Classic, the Tour of Fairbanks, the Brown Leaf Classic series, the Tanana River Challenge, and the annual Women on Wheels "Butterfly Ride." He inspired many fellow cyclists by traveling to these organized cycling events by bike, participating in the rides, and then cycling back home. His fellow cyclists described him as kind and caring, with a witty sense of humor. He travelled through rain and snow, logging thousands of miles a year traveling between his home in North Pole and work in Fairbanks. Tragically in 2022, Matt Glover passed away after a vehicle collision while on his bike.

We believe naming the MP 357-362 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path after Matt Glover will continue to inspire Interior cyclists and foster pedestrian safety on the new continuous pedestrian path between the city of North Pole and Fairbanks.

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