

Offered: 4/24/85  
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Szymanski and Uehling

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE LABOR AND  
2 COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
3 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 (L&C)  
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
5 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
6 Relating to the Whittier-Shotgun Cove  
7 Access.  
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 WHEREAS Whittier is becoming an important destination for tourists  
10 visiting Alaska, as shown by the increase of tour ships stopping at Whit-  
11 tier and of recreational businesses operating out of Whittier; and  
12 WHEREAS Whittier is also growing in recreational importance to many  
13 Alaska residents who travel to Whittier each summer for water-related  
14 recreation, and who depend for this purpose upon access to Whittier; and  
15 WHEREAS demand for Whittier harbor berths by recreational boaters far  
16 exceeds the available harbor space; and  
17 WHEREAS the Thirteenth Alaska State Legislature created the Alaska  
18 Marine Park system to protect areas within Prince William Sound for public  
19 recreation; and  
20 WHEREAS the planned disposal of municipal land between Whittier and  
21 Shotgun Cove for community expansion and recreation will increase the  
22 interest in the Whittier area for recreational homes or permanent resi-  
23 dences; and  
24 WHEREAS in 1984, over 200,000 persons visited Whittier, including  
25 travelers on the Alaska marine highway system; and  
26 WHEREAS the summer shuttle service between Portage and Whittier during  
27 the summer of 1984 was too infrequent to meet the needs of Anchorage visi-  
28 tors to Whittier; and  
29 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has been acquired by the state, and trans-  
portation planning can go forward at the state level on a comprehensive

1 basis; and

2 WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is  
3 examining alternatives for improving access to Whittier;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the Depart-  
5 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities for its investigation of ways  
6 to improve transportation to Whittier, including the possibility of paving  
7 one or both of the railroad tunnels between Portage and Whittier, and of  
8 increasing shuttle service by the Alaska Railroad; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor  
10 to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to  
11 establish as a priority the planning of improved access to Whittier and  
12 between Whittier and Shotgun Cove so that the Fourteenth Alaska State  
13 Legislature can consider the department's recommendations and take action  
14 on this matter; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the  
16 Alaska Railroad Corporation initiate increased summer shuttle service  
17 between Portage and Whittier until the state makes a permanent decision on  
18 this access problem.