

SCR

9

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER:

March 17, 1979

Date: 4-12-79

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on STATE AFFAIRS has had SCR 9

Requesting the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to examine and report on the feasibility of construction of a road between Wales and Tin City.

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

John Miller

Larry [unclear]

H. [unclear]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

CHAIRMAN

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST
 Bill/Resolution No. SCR 9
 Title Road from Wales to Tin City
 Requested by Ferguson Date 2/13/79

II. FISCAL DETAIL
 Agency Affected DOT/PF
 Program Category Affected Design & Construction
 Budget Request Unit(s) Affected Highway Design & Construction

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		25				
200 TRAVEL		5				
300 CONTRACTUAL		10				
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL						

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		40				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

The above should be sufficient to establish the feasibility and probable cost of the project.

IV. DATE 4/10/79 PREPARED BY Harry Keller
 AGENCY DOT/PF
 PHONE 364-212
 Original: Legislative Finance
 or Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

Mr. Chairman:

Tin City is the only active mine in District 22 other than gold mining operation in Nome that provides any jobs for the people in my area.

Mr. Richard Lee the owner has built and maintained a haul road from Tin City to Goodwin Gulch, a distance of 3 miles.

This bill would provide monies for study of an extension of this road to the village of Wales, which is 7 miles.

I feel there is justification for this study for the following reasons:

1. Over half of our crew of 12 men are from Wales, who, along with the rest of the two communities would use the road constantly. At present the means of contact between Tin City and Wales is by (1) foot, over the mountain, a tough, arduous and many times, dangerous route, (2) by boat during summer months, the only route being via Bering Sea around Cape Mountain, seldom usable because of the frequent south storms prevailing through the summer and (3) by Nome based airplane, which stringently limits the number of people who can travel or the payload they can utilize.
2. The BIA supply ship, Northstar III, which carries winter supplies and material to the various villages along the Arctic coast, almost every year, as it prepares discharge of supplies for Wales finds weather conditions adverse to unloading and is additionally thwarted by several sand bars between the ship's anchorage and the beach. There have been recent instances when the Northstar, due to severe weather and dangerous sand bars had to leave the area with all freight for Wales still aboard, discharge the freight at Nome, then airlift the freight to Wales.
3. The discharge area at Tin City is remarkably well suited for ship-to-shore discharge, has a good protected anchorage, deep water and an ideal beach and a landing area to which a good road is already built and in annual use by the military and civilians and freight lines serving the Tin City area. A road to Wales would enormously simplify the unloading efforts for this all-important requirement.
4. As mentioned before our own primary need for the road is make accessible our property at Boulder Creed and Granite Creed in the very near future. We have an anticipated life of operation on Boulder Creed of from 12 to 15 years by dredging and on Goodwin Creed of approximately 7 years by dredging. In this enterprise a large local payroll would be generated creating a major economic up-lift to this area.
5. In conjunction with our placer operation we have concrete plans for development of our tin lode claims, the source of all the placer tin. This projection, we feel, has much merit and has the potential of many years of activity and the development of very substantial wealth in this area.
6. We also wish to point out that the Tin City Air Force Base, with a complement of approximately sixty people has a very direct association with Wales in several ways, socially and economically. Wales people are employed at the base, both seasonally and year round. The air base provides an outlet for a substantially large turn-over of Eskimo

carving and crafts. The connections by road between the Air Force Base at Tin City and the Navy Base at Wales is also of considerable value, militarily and economically.

7. The large general store at Tin City stores and provides a major source of supplies, groceries, meat, clothing, hardware, gas and oil that the people of Wales are largely dependent on. The store also accepts ivory carvings and Eskimo crafts as a medium of exchange which other smaller stores in the area do not. The people of Wales unanimously urge and enthusiastically support a road tying the communities together as being economically imperative. These people have been praying for a road for many years and many promises have been made by politicians and highway officials that they would be provided a road. Yet nothing has been done. Alaska is a growing State. This area should no longer be neglected and overlooked.
8. We cannot help but note that other areas of Alaska and Seward Peninsula, with little or no population and no developed economy have been appropriated millions of dollars for construction of roads and bridges that have relatively little impact on the material development of the country and its people and whose overall usefulness in no way compares to the real need that is to be found with the people of Wales and Tin City.
9. Lastly, the road between Wales and Tin City is the beginning of the link-up of the highway to Nome and eventually with Fairbanks and the Outside, the length of the continent. It is truly a worthwhile and justifiable project that we urge for immediate consideration and implementation.

— Existing roads
— Proposed road routing
Scale 1 inch per mile

