

CSHCR

46

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER

4/27/88

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 5/8/88

Mr. President:

FINANCE Committee considered CSHCR 46 (FIN)

Copper River toll road

and recommended

[] replace with _____ CS _____) [] same title
[] or adopt _____ CS _____) [] new title

[] attached amendment(s) and

[] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

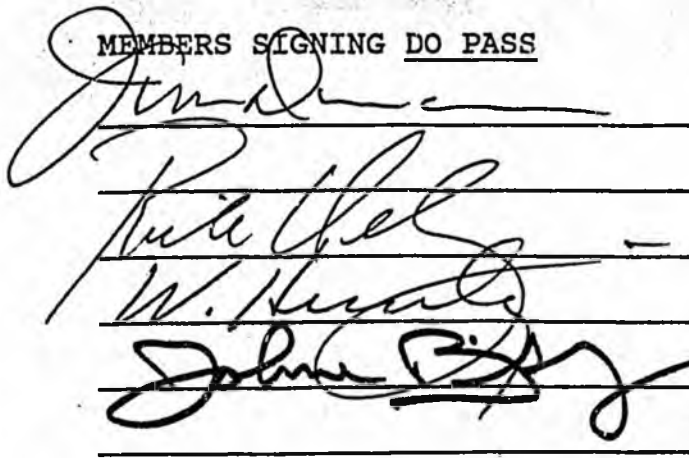
[] letter of intent adopted _____

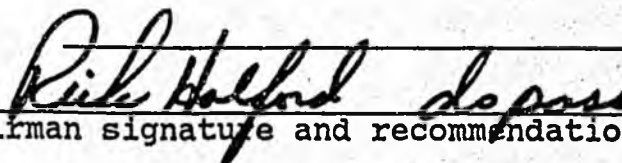
Committee [] attached or [] adopted fiscal note(s)

[] new [] updated or [] previous
[] zero [] fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS




Chairman signature and recommendation

[] Committee Backup attached

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: "Relating to a Copper River Toll Road."
Sponsor: Representative Cato
Requestor: House Finance

Agency Affected: DOT&PF
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Representative Al Adams, Chairman *AAA* Phone: 465-3706
Division: House Finance Committee Date: 3/11/88

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

ASSUMPTIONS

No. 2

CSHCR 46
HOUSE 3/14/88

- A) Toll Checkpoint
- 1) One toll checkpoint would be needed to collect tolls.
 - 2) Checkpoint costs were based on similar costs for a checkpoint on the Dalton Highway.
 - 3) A checkpoint for year round occupancy would be more expensive as it would require additional insulation, permanent utilities systems, larger living quarters, etc.
- B) Pioneer Road
- 1) Would be 18ft. wide, screened gravel surface and have trestle type bridges. The cost for this work assumes that 18ft. wide road could be constructed so that it was safe and maintainable and that only minimal reconstruction on the existing railbed would be necessary. Should any of these parameters be forced to change, during the course of actual design, the cost could increase substantially. Cost increases would depend on the type of changes that were necessary.
- C) Federal Aid Secondary
- 1) Would be 28ft. wide, crushed gravel surface and have standard bridges. The cost is based on current construction costs for typical gravel surface Federal Aid secondary roads. Assumes construction of access road from the Million Dollar Bridge, Mile Post 49, to Chitina.
- D) Copper River Bridge
- 1) To keep per vehicle tolls to a minimum, it was assumed that the estimated \$7,500,000 to construct a bridge across the Copper River, adjacent to the Million Dollar Bridge, would be done with Federal discretionary bridge funds. Therefore, this particular cost does not appear in the overall capital costs. If discretionary funding cannot be obtained the \$7,500,000 construction cost would have to be added to the total capital costs of the project. This would increase the per vehicle toll for capital costs payoff by \$7.00 for seasonal and \$4.00 for year-round.
- E) Maintenance Station
- 1) In order to distribute the added mileage evenly, one additional station would be needed in the Tasnuna River area and additional equipment would be needed at the Chitina Station.
 - 2) Facilities requirements to meet seasonal needs.
2,400 sq. ft. shop
Generator Bldg. w/two generators
4 each trailer pads for 14X70 trailers.
Utilities and water/well system.
 - 3) Facilities requirements to meet year round needs (in addition to above building needs).
2 Trailer pads for 14X70 trailers.
Utilities and water system.
Sand shed 2,000 sq. ft.

2,000 sq. ft. work store building.

No. 2

F) Maintenance Equipment

CS HCR 46
HOUSE 3/14/88

1) Seasonal (either type road)

a) New Tasnuna Station

Motor graders CAT 14 Type (2)

Dump Truck 8 Yd.

Loader 4 yd. type (1)

Dozer D-8 type

2 4WD 3/4 ton pickups

Low tractor trailer

b) The mileage this road would add to the existing system would be slightly more than a new station should handle. Therefore, some additional equipment would be needed at the existing Chitina Station to cover the extra northernmost portion of the additional mileage. This additional equipment would also be used on other state-maintained roads in the Chitina area.

c) Chitina Station (additional equipment)

Motor grader CAT 14 type (1)

Loader 4yd. type (1)

Dump Truck 8 yd. type (1)

2) Year-round (in addition to season equipment needs) [either type road]

a) Tasnuna Station

Truck type Rotary snowblower 2 each 2200 tph

4x4 Oshkosh with V-nose plow, belly blade and wing, 2 each
Sander

G) Building and equipment needs are based on:

- 1) Historical information from old railroad records, which show that a substantial maintenance effort was required to keep the alignment open and in good repair at all times of the year.
- 2) Personal on-site observations of substantial slide and erosion activity by DOT&PF maintenance staff and other individuals at various times of the year.
- 3) If the Pioneer Road is built, it will be heavily used. The one-lane road will not be able to handle the volume of traffic very long. By building and staffing an adequate camp, maintenance forces can make many of the upgrades that will be required by the traffic volume.

H) Maintenance Costs - Manpower Needs

- 1) Seasonal
 - a) Tasnuna Station (New Positions)
 - i) 1 WG 52 Foreman
 - ii) 2 WG 53 Operations
 - iii) 1 WG 53 Operator/Mechanic
 - b) Chitina Station
 - i) 2 WG 53 Operators
 - 2) Year Round
 - a) Tasnuna Station
 - i) above 4 Positions @ Full-time
 - ii) Plus 1 additional WG 53 Operator and 1 additional WG 54 Operator
- I) Toll Program Administration
- 1) Based on estimates of manpower needs for similar checkpoint program on Dalton Highway at \$7,000 per month for a staff of 3.
 - 2) Accounting support assumes accounting clerk, range 9, part-time.
- J) Average Annual Traffic
- 1) Based on historical traffic generating data for similar sized communities, future growth patterns as demonstrated in the draft Cordova Comprehensive Plan and the area's location relative to major population centers and recreational/resource opportunities. This resulted in an average daily traffic count forecast of 375 vehicles a day, or 11,250 a month based on a 30-day month.
 - 2) The average monthly traffic count for a year round rate will be less than a seasonal route. This is because the year round average takes in a 7-month period where historic traffic declines by approximately 60% from the five-month summer period.
- K) Capital Costs
- 1) Capital costs for check point construction, maintenance equipment, maintenance station construction, and Pioneer Road would all have to be funded initially from General Funds.
 - 2) Capital costs for constructing the Federal Aid Secondary Road would be split 91.35% Federal and 8.65% State General Fund match.
 - 3) Costs for Pioneer Road construction could be recovered from the FHWA upon upgrade of this road to Federal Highway Secondary standards. However this recovered cost would come from federal obligation authority which could otherwise be used on other projects.

- L) Toll charges for private vehicles may be able to be lessened by charging on the basis of vehicle gross weight. This would increase the cost to truck traffic, but assumably increase shipping costs as well. Because we have no way to determine gross weight at this time, such a charge schedule would have to wait until traffic data could be collected on the road, so that a determination could be made as to whether or not actual truck traffic was substantial enough to invoke such a schedule. An annual reassessment of toll charges could be done if changes in traffic level, maintenance costs, and/or toll program costs change.
- M) Analysis does not include "cost of money."

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS OF

HCR 46-COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY TOLL ROAD

COSTS	SEASONAL		YEAR-ROUND	
	PIONEER RD	FED. AID RD.	PIONEER RD.	FED. AID RD
Capital (Total)	\$16,925,000	\$92,255,000	\$18,405,000	\$93,405,000
Toll Check Pt.	50,000	50,000	150,000	150,000
Rd. Construction	15,000,000	90,000,000	15,000,000	90,000,000
Maint. Station	730,000	730,000	1,120,000	1,120,000
Maint. Equipment	1,145,000	1,475,000	2,135,000	2,135,000
Maintenance (Total)	600,000	800,000	1,200,000	1,600,000
Toll Prog. Admin. (Total)	50,000	50,000	120,000	120,000

REVENUES	CAPITAL COSTS		MAINTENANCE COSTS		TOLL PROG. COSTS	
	SEASONAL	YEAR-ROUND	SEASONAL	YEAR-ROUND	SEASONAL	YEAR-ROUND
Pioneer Road	\$16,925,000	\$18,405,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
Pay Back Basis	20 yrs.	20 yrs.	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Annual Pay Back	846,250	920,250	600,000	1,200,000	50,000	120,000
Average Annual Traffic	56,250	135,000	56,250	135,000	56,250	135,000
Per Vehicle Toll	\$15.00	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$.90	\$.90
Federal Aid Road	\$92,255,000	\$93,405,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
Pay Back Basis	20 yrs.	20 yrs.	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Annual Pay Back	4,612,750	4,670,250	800,000	1,600,000	50,000	120,000
Average Annual Traffic	56,250	135,000	56,250	135,000	56,250	135,000
Per Vehicle Toll	\$82.00	\$35.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$.90	\$.90

Original sponsors: Cato and Zawacki

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46 (Finance)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to a Copper River toll road.
6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
7 WHEREAS there is currently no road to Cordova; and
8 WHEREAS the residents of Cordova very much want to be connected by
9 road to other points in the state; and
10 WHEREAS a road to Cordova would stimulate economic development and
11 encourage tourism in the area; and
12 WHEREAS the availability of both state and federal funding for road
13 construction has decreased; and
14 WHEREAS the state has authority under AS 37.15.720 to construct and
15 maintain toll roads;
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
17 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Transportation and
18 Public Facilities, subject to conditions equivalent to those applicable to
19 the Knik Arm Crossing under AS 37.15.730(1) - (3), to construct a toll road
20 along the Copper River via Chitina to Cordova.

THE EYAK CORPORATION

February 16, 1988

Office of The Governor
ATTN: Governor Cowper
Pouch A
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY SUPPORT BY EYAK

Dear Governor Cowper,

The Eyak Corporation strongly supports the building of the Copper River Highway, and has supported it for a number of years. Any method that would expedite the building of the Copper River Highway, including a pioneer road, we feel would be a benefit to our people and all the people of Cordova. A highway would be a more economical way for people and freight to flow in and out of this community.

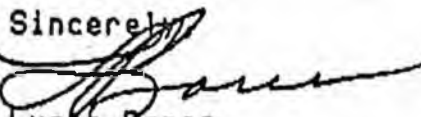
We feel that the question of whether or not the people of Cordova want a road, has been answered, and that answer was yes. We also would hope that you would be in favor of tying the state together via a highway system especially one that connects Cordova to the rest of the state. It is our understanding that since the Hickel Administration, new state highways have been built.

The Eyak Corporation passed a resolution that endorsed the Woods Canyon Route otherwise known as the Chitna Route. This resolution is attached.

We also feel that this road would not only benefit the Cordova area, but it would also benefit the entire state. With the increase in tourism, especially in the area of McKinley Park, The Copper River Highway could go a long way to diversifying the areas visited by tourists by opening up the Wrangell St Elias area during the tourist season. Additional attractions that would be opened up and visited, are the Childs Glacier, Copper River Delta, and Sheridan Glacier, all of which are currently enjoyed by only a few people. Another fact that should be considered is the potential stabilization of Cordova's economy with the additional flow of persons and commerce that would travel to Cordova via the Copper River Highway. Many of these persons and businesses might not come without the highway.

Again we ask for your support and hope that the Highway can become a reality soon.

Sincerely,


Lucas Borer
Chief Executive Officer
The Eyak Corporation

P.O. BOX 340 CORDOVA, ALASKA 99574 (907)424-7161

Betty Lato
Juneau Alaska
99811

FEB 23 1988

The Copper River Highway has long been a dream to most Cordovans. The business community has always supported the completion of our Highway. As you know, we were within 10 miles of completion when the Good Friday earthquake hit. Since then, the project has been a political football.

We ask you to support our legislators in the efforts to secure funding for the Copper River Highway. We are not asking for a deluxe or even paved highway, simply a pioneer access so that our community can be linked to Alaska's road system.

Supporting the development of Alaska's infrastructure through construction of necessary roads is vital to the economic well being of the State of Alaska.

We would be most appreciative of your support.

Sincerely,

David Henry
General Delivery
Cordova Alaska

Governor's Office
Box A, Juneau, 99811-0101
February 19, 1988

FEB 23 1988

Dear Governor Cowper,

I want you to know I am in complete support of completion of the Copper River Highway to Chitna. I was born, raised, and have lived all my life in Cordova. The road would be a real asset to help with all aspects of life here. The ferry is essential and would remain so, but the way things are now the ferry is nearly impossible for the average guy. When I need service on my new truck I have to take a week to go to Anchorage to get the work done. The ferry schedule has always worked this way, and it seems like just by it's very nature it can not provide all our transportation needs. I believe if we had a highway connection with the rest of the state I probably would not have to go to Anchorage for vehicle service, in the long run.

In addition I do not think a road would ruin our town. We who were born and raised here have always had the history of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad and regular land transportation to the Interior as part of our being and desires. It is very frustrating to have had a bunch of short timers and summer only users telling us a road would ruin our community. Land transportation made this City. It won't ruin anything to have what we grew up expecting to finally be a reality.

Thanks for listening and please help end this very frustrating situation for my community.

Sincerely,



Roger Behymer
Box 614
Cordova

cc.

Bette Cato
Mike Szymanski
Jay Kertulla

Thank you for your help

Office of the Governor:
Box A
Juneau, Alaska, 99811

FEB 23 1988

February 15, 1988

Dear Governor Cowper,

This letter is to show my support for the Copper River Highway which would connect Cordova, Alaska to the rest of the State by means of a road. Not only would the road encourage other Alaskan to visit Cordova, it would make it possible for Cordovans to visit and shop outside of Cordova at less expense.

The local merchants use the "high cost of shipping" excuse to inflate local prices to a ridiculous high and then virtually laugh at their customers because we pay these prices. Example: a gallon of milk cost almost \$5.00; a loaf of bread costs \$2.50, chicken sells for \$2.99 a pound. As there is no competition the merchants can set any price they so desire. If Cordovans were able to drive Anchorage without the need to take a ferry to Valdez, they could afford to bring back a truckload of groceries and still save money.

Please lend your support to the Copper River Highway to connect Cordova to the rest of the State.

Sincerely,

Dixie Lambert

Dixie Lambert

PO Box 614

Cordova, AK 99574

cc: Rep. Betty Cato
Sen. Mike Szymanski
Sen. Jay Kertulla

I'd appreciate your support also Betty!

Govenor Steve Cowper
Juneau, 99811-0101
February 15, 1988

FEB 23 1988

Dear Govenor Cowper,

I would like to see the Copper River ROAD COMPLETED. This would be a very strong unifying point for Cordova. You see the people who oppose the road all admit that sooner or later there will be a road. Once the road is finally completed we will be able to start having a city of agreement and purpose. As it is now many people who want the road keep quiet. They are afraid to lose some of the little business there is. Some such as our newspaper editor have very negative feelings about the road for selfish reasons. They do not want TO SHARE THE COUNTRY with others. They want to have rafting business or tour business all to themselves. Some of these few can make life uncomfortable for any of the many who want the road due to their community position. Many collect a salary from government in some form or another. These few have made life hard on some of our most energetic community members and they have left the community. Far too many of our young adults have to leave also creating a brain drain, and further erode our ability to have any sense of community except the small group of elite who managed to cheat Cordova out of the road. I know this is somewhat hard to believe, but for instance one might wonder why there is never anything in the newspaper about positive aspects of the Copper River Road. The editor makes it appear ridiculous. She will edit for space or run contradictory information.

None of these type of things is good for a community. We need to have our history back. The railroad went to Chitna and let people move freely into the interior and be Alaskans. We must regain our identity and take our place amongst other Alaskan cities. We need your help.

Respectfully,

Dennis Marchant
P.O. Box 1625
CORDOVA

cc.

Jay Kerttula

Bette Cato

Mike Szymanski

*PLEASE Be our FAIR & good mother
make our hopes come true*

FEB 23 1988

Govenor Steve Cowper
Juneau, Alaska
Feb. 16, 1988

Dagmar Davis
Box 192
Cordova, 99574

Dear Govenor Cowper,

I have been a resident of Cordova for forty-three years and have always supported the completion of the Copper River Highway. The town has always been in favor of the road except in the very unfair 1982 vote. They said that it was just another unofficial vote but very unfairly doomed the Million Dollar Bridge on the basis of the vote. To many voters it was just another ho-hum vote for something we all knew was desperately needed and long sought. Advertisements in the newspaper made it appear like a yes vote would ruin the hunting and fishing and leave us buried in litter. I don't believe any of these things would happen. I know from living at a turn around spot on Eyak Lake that TOURISTS DON'T LITTER, LOCALS DO.

The ferry system is good but it can not run every day. A road would give us the added dimension of freedom to travel to other Alaskan cities when we need to go. I would be happy to pay a toll to travel at my own convenience and would continue to use the Marine Highway as it fit into my own schedule. I know that the road has been made to appear very controversial in the past but I do not think this is true. I believe that the '82 vote was generated by a young element who were relatively new to Cordova and wanted it all to themselves. As it is now many of our young people have to move away, and this is not good for our sense of our community.

I hope you will give us strong support in finally finishing the road.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dagmar J. Davis
Dagmar Davis

cc.

Bette Cato

Mike Szymanski

Jalmar Kerttula

Thank you for your help

7-20-55

FEB 23 1960

unbuilt

Copper River Highway #10 finally has come this far with the help of many of you--Cato, City of Cordova, etc. we now have HCR-46 attached.

I don't need to tell you or stress that NOW IS THE TIME. After 50 years, after 29 years in statehood, and only one highway being built, Cordova's economy, future tourism, and the North Gulf Coast should be opened to some development

I only have two words LET'S BUILD.

Under the toll road option we are not asking for handouts, there can be no more legitimate obstacles. For all Alaska, not just this area, build the highway; let's work together. There can be no other alternative but to support HCR 46.

Marla J. Adkins

Marla J. Adkins
An Alaskan
P.O. Box 461
Cordova, AK 99574

This will se out be
every Reg- voters. with some personal
rates
Hope helps!
My
Good Job Lady
lets push pray

Best to county

Govenor Steve Cowper
Juneau, 99811-0101
February 15, 1988

Dear Govenor Cowper,

Cordova deserves to be re-connected with the rest of Alaska. The Copper River Route is the easiest way into the interior, and its construction is the history of Cordova. All Americans deserve the chance to travel through the old rail-belt area and see some of the most spectacular scenery on earth. This road has always been a political football. They say copper is the metal people fight the most over. This must be true and have rubbed of on the railroad grade. I hope you can help us rejoin the rest of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Phil Landis
P.O. Box 1254
Cordova, AK
99574
424-3955

cc.
Betto Cato
Jay Kerttula
Mike Szymanski

Govenor Steve Cowper
Juneau, 99811-0101
February 15, 1988

FEB 19 1988

Dear Govenor Cowper,

Please give your approval to finishing the road up the Copper River to Chitna. It will be important to protect the salmon stock spawning areas that might be adjacent to the road so fish and game can study any effect additional use might have. perhaps some kind of moratorium could be made so as to do no harm. We need the road very badly right now. If you would help us, may be we would not have to wait another fifty years. It seems similar to the question of ANWR, Only it really is not new business, just a return to what we had historically and something that could be managed with very low impact on the enviornment. The Southeastern tourism people have shown quite plainly that the best return from tourism is the independant traveler. I think we can easily double the amount of business the Bartlett Does here, and that would decrease the overall subsidy to the Marine Highway system.

It seems like the kind of proposition where no one can lose. I sincerely hope you can help make the completion of the road a reality in the very near future. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Bruce Selman
PO 172

cc.

Jay Kerttula
Mike Szymanski
Bette Cato

Govenor Steve Cowper
Juneau, 99811-0101
February 15, 1988

COPY
FEB 19 1988

Dear Govenor Cowper,

Since our only real builder in Cordova has moved over to Valdez to begin a new fish processing plant where there is a road, and the Coast Guard which is ten percent of our winter population will probably be moving out in the fall we need a road into Cordova more than ever. Please if you can help, help now. Some people say that the army has a plan to put a road into Cordova that would only take one month to complete. Have you ever heard this about a defense road which the Corps of Engineers supposedly has.? This would really be great if it were true. It really doesn't seem like we should have to wait anymore for permits or any of that stuff. After all this road is not new. It was there 75 years ago. It operated as a railroad for 30 years. We have always wanted to still be a part of Alaska, but it isn't easy being isolated without normal transportation.

I have also heard that a toll road might be possible. If this was true then the road could maintain itself and no one could object due to high costs. Then we here in Cordova could share in the beauty that is in the rest of the state, and the rest of the state could come over here to see the Gulf of Alaska. It would be the only place where Alaskans could see the ocean. Amazing, we have more coast than the entire US and this would be the only place to see the Pacific from that you could drive to! I hope you can help all Alaskans share the beauty we have to offer.

Thanks for reading,

Donnita K. Burch

cc.

Mike Szymanski
Jay Kerttula
Bette Cato



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

HCR 46

807 "G" Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3440
Box 100516, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0516 - 907/276-0700

April 20, 1988

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Governor Steve Cowper
State of Alaska
Box A
Juneau, AK 99811

re: Copper River Highway

Dear Governor Cowper:

The Resource Development Council strongly urges you to consider supporting the "often begun, but never completed," Copper River Highway (CRH).

This project has many positive benefits for Alaska. Community support, surface access to important natural resources, increased recreation utilization and better opportunities for road-oriented visitors all merit your consideration as valid reasons to support this much-needed road.

RDC recognizes there are a number of hurdles facing the state as it considers this project, not the least of which is funding. But we still believe your administration should investigate and analyze innovative means of financing the road. Among the options available are the initial construction of only a pioneer road, issuing bonds for this and other statewide road projects and the approval of a toll authority for the CRH.

This project is one that should be highlighted in your administration as the type of economic development infrastructure so badly needed in Alaska. RDC urges you to put the full weight of the Governor's Office firmly behind the timely construction of the Copper River Highway, State Highway #10.

Thank you for your consideration,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
for Alaska, Inc.

Becky L. Gay
Executive Director

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Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young

March 7, 1988

Martha

TO: House Finance Committee members

FR: Dave McCargo
Box 100767
Anchorage, AK 99510

RE: Wednesday's hearing on HCR 46, the Copper River toll road

Please do not approve this resolution. Although it does not commit any money, the resolution is an embarrassment as it continues the "mega-project" mentality. The pro-road residents of Cordova need to face the fact that the State can no longer obligate itself to \$100 million dollar projects with marginal benefits. I hope you will consider three points:

1) The fiscal note severely underestimates the cost of maintenance. For example, the cost of maintenance for a year-round road was estimated to be over \$3 million in the DOT/PF 3/1/83 project analysis. And that was in 1983 dollars!

2) The road proponents have a major dilemma since a pioneer or seasonal road wouldn't provide sufficient access for those local residents and tour operators who want it, while a year-round road's construction and maintenance costs would be prohibitive.

3) The whereas clause in HCR 46 that claims "residents of Cordova very much want" road access is ridiculous. In a 1982 Cordova city poll voters opposed the highway by a 59% to 41% margin. Since then the Cordova economy has worsened, and a majority is apparently now in favor of the road. If the economy improves, the majority will probably reverse itself again. The important point is that it is not true that Cordova residents very much want a road; they are in fact very divided in opinion on the issue.



Peratrovich, Nottingham & Drage, Inc.

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January 20, 1988

FEB 11 1988;

PN&D K-514

HCR #6

Margy Johnson
Reluctant Fisherman
Box 150
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Re: Copper River Highway

Dear Margy:

As I promised, we are continuing to gather information about the Copper River Highway. Both Roy Peratrovich and I have always thought that this project is of great economic importance to Chitna, Cordova, Valdez and Alaska.

In earlier days, we both worked on route reconnaissance and designed many of the bridges including the large ones at Flag Point.

When work was stopped in the mid 1970's only about 4 miles was left to complete the initial pioneer road stretching from Chitna to the Million Dollar Bridge, according to Bruce Campbell, then Commissioner of Highways. Apparently work crews on both sides of the Tasnuna River were within sight of each other.

The pioneer road was begun at two ends, one near Chitna and the other near the Million Dollar Bridge. Crews pressed forward to around the Tasnuna River.

Photos taken by the late Charles Matlock are enclosed to show typical views of the road along the route. The pioneer road was about 14 feet wide and in condition to allow car passage.

The route crosses a few rivers that need substantial bridges. The Million Dollar Bridge could be repaired, Allen River needs a bridge, Abercrombie Creek, the large Tasnuna crossing would be the most expensive and there could be some lesser crossings of creeks.

Bruce Campbell says that a 14 foot wide gravel road with turnouts every 1/4 mile or so could be readily built in a fairly short time.

The State apparently owns the entire route right-of-way so that should not be a problem.

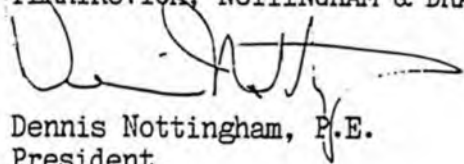
Modern technology involving modular bridges, heavy lift techniques and fast track road construction methods could all be employed on this project.

Margy Johnson
January 20, 1988/K-514
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We will continue to support your efforts and should you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

PERATROVICH, NOTTINGHAM & DRAGE, INC.



Dennis Nottingham, P.E.
President

DN/dt/L5

xc: Rep. Bette Cato
Don Moore, Cordova City Manager
w/attachments



SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER

FINANCE

3/18/88
Mr. President:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 4/26/88

TRANSPORTATION Committee considered CSHCR 46 (FIN)

Copper River toll road

and recommended

replace with _____ CS _____) same title
 or adopt _____ CS _____) new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations *STW*

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)
 new updated or previous
 zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Handwritten signatures]

[Handwritten signature]
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup attached