

HB

481



Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 23 HEINRICH "Henry" SPRINGER

HOME:
P.O. Box 352
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-2854

WHILE IN JUNEAU:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811
(907) 465-3789/4984

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR:
Community and
Regional Affairs

VICE-CHAIR:
Transportation

MEMBER:
Resources

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Lloyd Jones, Chairman
Senate Transportation Committee

FROM: Representative Henry Springer *H. Springer*

DATE: April 18, 1988

SUBJECT: House Bill 481 - "An Act relating to naming the
Woodrow Johansen Expressway."

Thank you for scheduling this bill sponsored by the House Transportation Committee. I have included a letter in the House Transportation packet giving the necessary information.

A zero fiscal note from DOT/PF is attached, and the only noted concern is the length of the name on some signs. I would have no objection to using "W" Johansen" in such cases.

I think the timing is excellent; it does not create extra cost, because the naming is done in the pre-construction stage and there is no conflict with re-naming something.

Your consideration is much appreciated.

Attachments

Fiscal Note (Attachment)
HB 481

The Geist Road Extension will be built under five projects between 1987 and 1995. The first project is now under contract and the second and third projects will be ready for construction in approximately one year. The first project (now under contract) does not include any "Geist Rd" signs.

All signs are eligible for federal highway funding, however, the department is concerned that road signs do not become too large. Letter sizes are set by standards for the type of facility and for this project 8 to 13 inch letters will be common. If all signs must read "Woodrow Johansen Expy," some signs will be very large, require special structures to support, and may be difficult to place at some locations. A compromise of "Johansen Expy" would be appreciated where sign sizes become a problem.

There may also be some community concerns with the discontinuity between the existing Geist Road west of University Avenue and the proposed renaming to the east.



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COMMITTEES

CHAIR:

1981-82

VICE-CHAIR:

1982-83

MEMBER:

1983-84

TO: Transportation Committee

SUBJECT: House Bill 481

From 1963 to 1975 I have worked under Mr. Johansen's supervision in various functions with the Department of Highways and from 1975 to 1979 (the time of his retirement) as his colleague when he was District Engineer at Fairbanks and when I was District Engineer at Nome.

There is no other man in Alaska whom I admire more. He has dedicated his whole life to the transportation matters in Alaska. The attached biographical sketch and the data contained in the bill show this very clearly. I have no doubt that it is warranted to honor him in this way.

This bill differs in some aspects from other similar ones:

1. The highway has not been built yet and is in various stages of implementation: the western segment is ready for construction, the eastern end is still in the location - approval - and design stage.
2. The highway will connect with 2 major highways through an urban area and therefore there is no confusion or duplication of designation.
3. I do not know of any controversy over the name of "Woodrow Johansen".

The early designation has three advantages:

- a) the name can be incorporated early enough in planning, design and contract plans and documents and eliminate the possibility of duplication;
- b) the signs and markers can be purchased and installed in the usual process and extra cost is avoided; and

BILL HISTORY - HOUSE ACTION

HB 481

HOUSE CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 29, 1988 / MONDAY

HOUSE JOURNAL FEBRUARY 15, 1988

HB 481

HOUSE BILL NO. 481 by the Transportation Committee,
entitled:

"An Act relating to naming the Woodrow Johansen
Expressway."

was read the first time and referred to the Transportation
Committee.

HOUSE ACTION FEBRUARY 24, 1988

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED HB 481 AND RECOMMENDS: DO PASS
And attaches a new zero fiscal note with analysis.

SIGNING DO PASS: Miller, Springer, Hudson, Pearce, Boucher, Cato

STATE OF ALASKA, 1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST 2-18-88

Bill Version: HB 481
Publish Date: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: Act act relating to naming the
Woodrow Johansen Expressway
Sponsor: Cato
Requestor: Cato

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						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0				
CAPITAL		0				
REVENUE		0				

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS		0				
OTHER						
TOTAL		0				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: See attached analysis

Prepared by: W. Keith Gerken Phone: 465-3900
Division: Deputy Commissioner, Operations Date: 2/23/88

Approved by Commissioner: Mark S. Hickey Date: 2-23-88
Agency: DOT&PF

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

Fiscal Note (Attachment)
HB 481

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LEGISLATIVE REPORTING SERVICE (BILL SUMMARY)

W. Johansen
Expressway
(naming)

HOUSE BILL NO. 481, by the Transportation Committee. Would name the controlled access highway connecting the Geist Road at University Avenue and the Steese Highway interchange in Fairbanks the Woodrow Johansen Expressway. Johansen was a civil engineer, and taught civil engineering at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He became head of the department in 1954. He was also head of the Fairbanks district of the Alaska Road Commission, U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Alaska Department of Highways, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Does not provide an effective date (bill becomes law 90 days after being signed by the governor).

Introduced February 15, 1988 and referred to Transportation.

c) name usage is assured from the start, avoiding a problem often experienced with renaming facilities.

I have not encountered any opposition. The bill has the support of the Fairbanks legislators both in House and Senate, DOT/PF and the Governor's Office, City Mayor Bill Wally of Fairbanks, Borough Mayor Juanita Helms Fairbanks North Star Borough and numerous people.

I have also contacted Ms Nancy Lee Baker who expressed reservations on House Bill 437 (Mitchell Expressway; although she thought it may be too early to name the route she had no problem in principal.

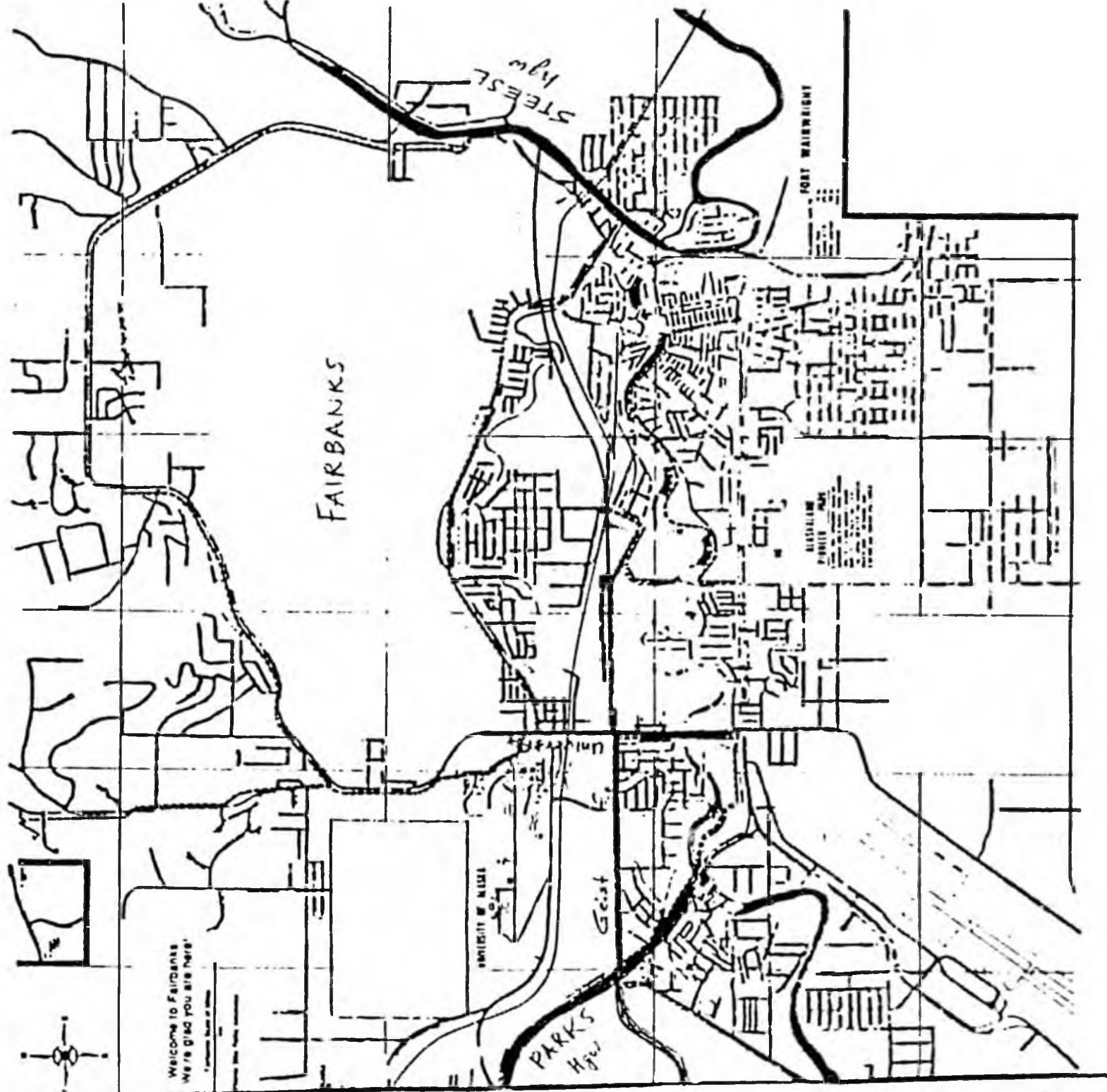
It is appropriate to remember and honor Woodrow Johansen through future generations and I hope this bill moves from Committee and through the legislature this session.

SCHEMATIC

PROPOSED

"WOODROW WILSON EXPRESS WAY"

approximate location, final location to be determined



Married the former Carolyn Haggstrom, also Alaskan born, in 1942. Carolyn graduated from the University of Alaska with a bachelors degree in Business Administration. She also has a bachelors and a masters in Education and taught for many years in the Fairbanks school system. The Johansens have four children.

Throughout his career, Woody Johansen has distinguished himself as an outstanding engineer and administrator. As the Interior District Engineer he headed up the largest highway district in the state for over twenty years.

Under his stewardship, a number of noteworthy highway engineering projects were completed, including:

The northern half of the George Parks Highway, providing a new and shorter route between Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The Dalton Highway, the only overland access to the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

The Yukon River Bridge, the first bridge to span the Yukon River in the state of Alaska.

The Moody Bridge, which carries the Parks Highway across the Nenana River gorge near Healy.

The Hurricane Gulch Bridge, which provided the final connection between the northern and southern portions of the Parks Highway.

Numerous projects to rebuild, widen, straighten and otherwise upgrade all of the major highways, both urban and rural, in the Interior district.

Took a strong interest in the encouragement and development of engineering students at the University of Alaska. Provided opportunities for summer employment for students to give them exposure to the practical applications of civil engineering knowledge and skills.

Was named the University of Alaska Distinguished Alumnus in 1976.



Alaska State Legislature

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COMMITTEE:

CHAIR:

MEMBER:

VICE-CHAIR:

MEMBER:

MEMBER:

MEMBER:

TO: Transportation Committee

SUBJECT: House Bill 481

From 1963 to 1975 I have worked under Mr. Johansen's supervision in various functions with the Department of Highways and from 1975 to 1979 (the time of his retirement) as his colleague when he was District Engineer at Fairbanks and when I was District Engineer at Nome.

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WOODROW JOHANSEN

Biographical Sketch

Born November 24, 1913 in Eyak, Alaska (near Cordova)

Spent childhood years in the Cordova area. As a young man, worked on construction crew for the Copper River Northwestern Railway. Originally aspired to be an engineer for the railroad.

Graduated from Cordova High School in 1932.

Attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks under then university president, Dr. Charles Bunnell.

Was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" in 1939.

Graduated with a B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1940. By this time the Kennicott Copper Mine had ceased operation and the Copper River Northwestern Railroad was shut down.

Went to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, then joined the University of Alaska engineering faculty in 1942.

Taught at the University of Alaska from 1942 to 1952 as an associate professor of civil engineering.

Earned an M.S. degree in Civil Engineering ^{from} ~~the~~ the University of Illinois in 1949.

Joined Alaska Road Commission in 1951 as assistant district engineer of the Fairbanks district.

Was district engineer with the Valdez district from 1952 to 1954.

Became professor of civil engineering and head of the civil engineering department at the University of Alaska in 1954.

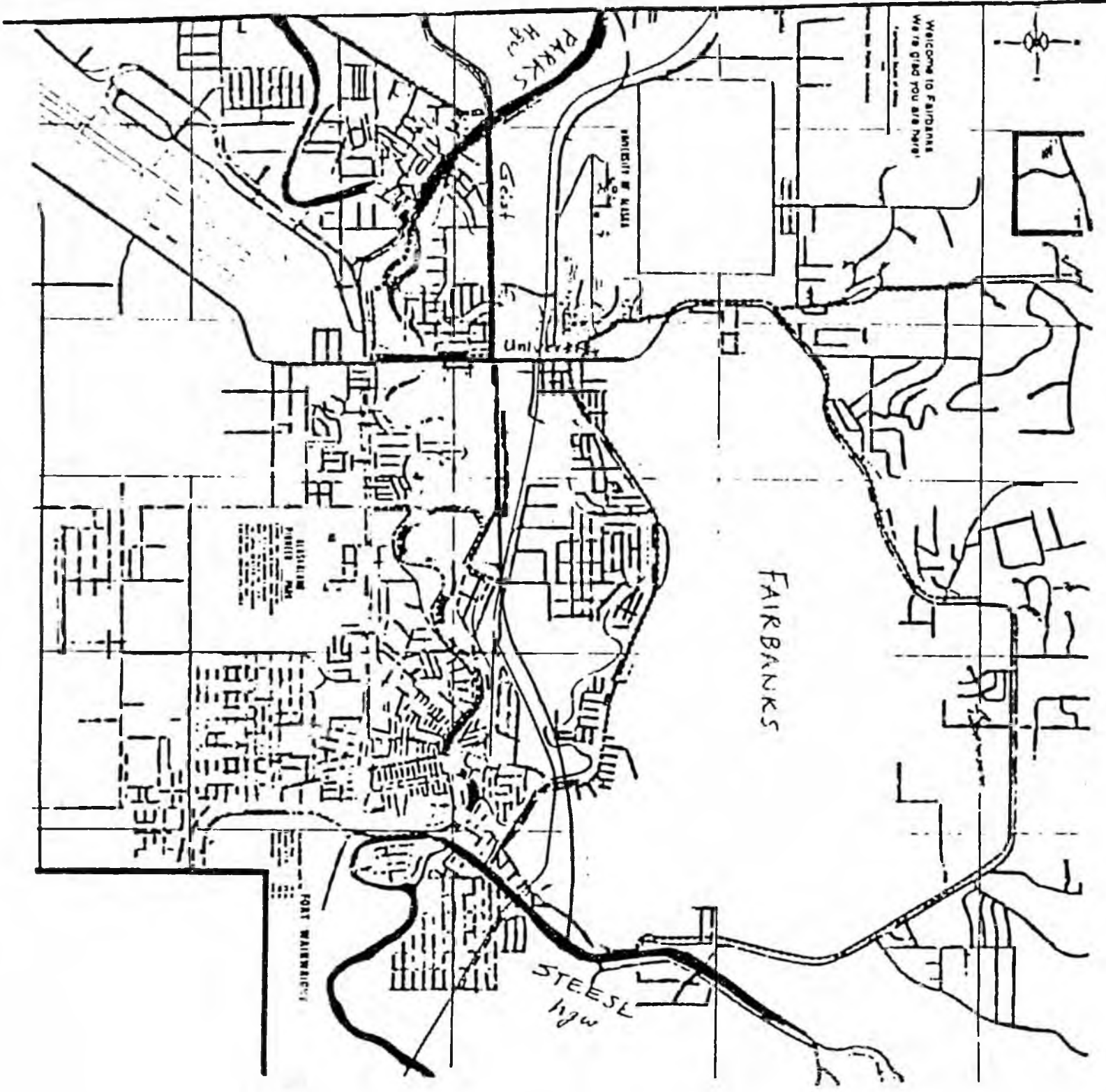
Returned to the Alaska Road Commission as Fairbanks district engineer in 1955. Remained in that position when the A.R.C. became the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads.

Accepted post as Interior District Engineer for the State Department of Highways when that agency took over responsibility for Alaska's highway system in 1960. Remained in the position of Interior Regional Engineer when the Dept. of Highways was incorporated into the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities in 1977.

Retired from state service in 1979.

SCHEMATIC
PROPOSED

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approximate location, final location to be determined



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Community and
Regional Affairs

VICE-CHAIR:
Transportation

MEMBER:
Resources

7 April 88

APR 7 1988

To Senator

Lloyd Jones

Chm. Senate Transportation Committee

Dear Lloyd;

*HB 481 - Woodrow Johnson Expressway
has been passed out of the Senate State
Affairs Committee; the next referral
is your committee*

*As discussed earlier this is a non-
controversial bill, honoring a most deserving
life-long Alaskan*

*I would appreciate it very much if you
could schedule this bill at your earliest
convenience.*

Thanks

Henry

STATE OF ALASKA 1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST 2-18-88

Bill Version: HB 481
Publish Date: HOUSE 2/26/88

Revision Date: _____
Title: Act act relating to naming the
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Sponsor: Cato
Requestor: Cato

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

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FEDERAL FUNDS		0				
OTHER						
TOTAL		0				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: See attached analysis

Prepared by: W. Keith Gerken Phone: 465-3900
Division: Deputy Commissioner, Operations Date: 2/23/88

Approved by Commissioner: Mark S. Hickey Date: 2-23-88
Agency: DOT&PF

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