

HB

248

Alaska State Legislature

Committees

Labor & Commerce
Legislative Council
World Trade
Trade & Tourism
Special Committee
on Fisheries



Representative Eugene Kubina
House Minority Leader

During Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

During Interim:
P.O. Box 2463
Valdez, Alaska 99686

SPONSOR STATEMENT - HOUSE BILL 248

HB 248, "An Act Naming East Egan Drive in Valdez" renames a portion of the Richardson Highway in Valdez built after the 1964 earthquake.

The Richardson Highway is Alaska's first road. As early as 1898 it was known to gold seekers as the Valdez to Eagle trail. In 1910 the trail was upgraded to a wagon road and lengthened to Fairbanks under the direction of General Wilds P. Richardson, the first president of the Alaska Road Commission. The Alaska Road Commission upgraded the road to automobile standards in the 1920's. The Richardson was hard-surfaced in 1957.

Originally, the Richardson Highway ended at the Old Valdez town site. Milepost 0 was established at the city dock. After the 1964 earthquake the Valdez town site was moved approximately four miles west and the Richardson Highway extended to Meals Avenue, where it ends today. However, the milepost system, already firmly established and well used, was not changed.

Because of the extension, there are 3.4 miles of Richardson Highway between Meals Avenue and the east end of Mineral Creek Loop without a corresponding milepost. Making the name change will allow the City of Valdez to assign a local address to businesses located along East Egan Drive.

RICHARDSON HIGHWAY

Valdez to Delta Junction, Alaska
Alaska Route 4



Worthington Glacier is the most visited site in the Copper River Basin. (Lee Foster)

The Richardson Highway extends 368 miles/592 km from Valdez to Fairbanks. This section logs the first 270 miles/434.5 km of the Richardson Highway from Valdez to Delta Junction (the remaining 98 miles/157.7 km from Delta Junction to Fairbanks are logged in the ALASKA HIGHWAY section). Southbound travelers read log back to front.

The Richardson is a wide paved highway in good condition except for sporadic frost heaving. A new section of highway completed in 1989 bypasses the historic community of Copper Center. The MILEPOST® logs the old highway through town. The "new" Richardson Highway (bypass route) is of equal distance — 6.5 miles/10.5 km — with no notable features. You must exit the highway (watch for signs) to see Copper Center.

The Richardson Highway is a scenic route through the magnificent scenery of the Chugach Mountains and Alaska Range, leading past spectacular glaciers, through spruce forests and across tundra meadows. It also passes many fine king salmon streams including the Gulkana and Tonsina rivers.

The Richardson Highway was Alaska's first road, known to gold seekers in 1898 as the Valdez to Eagle trail. The gold rush trail led over the treacherous Valdez Glacier, then northeast to Eagle and the Yukon River route to the Klondike goldfields. Captain W.R. Abercrombie of the U.S. Army rerouted the trail in 1899 through Keystone Canyon and over Thompson Pass, thus avoiding the glacier. As the Klondike gold rush waned, the military kept the trail open to connect Fort Lisicum in Valdez with Fort Egbert in

Eagle. In 1903, the U.S. Army Signal Corps laid the trans-Alaska telegraph line along this route.

Gold stampeders started up the trail again in 1902, this time headed for Fairbanks, site of a big gold strike. The Valdez to Fairbanks trail became an important route to the Interior, and in 1910 the trail was upgraded to a wagon road under the direction of Gen. Wilds P. Richardson, first president of the Alaska Road Commission. The ARC updated the road to automobile standards in the 1920s. The Richardson Highway was hard-surfaced in 1957.

Emergency medical services: Phone 911 anywhere along the highway.

Richardson Highway Log

Mileposts on the Richardson Highway were erected before the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and therefore begin 4 miles/6.4 km from present-day downtown Valdez near the Old Valdez townsite (destroyed during the earthquake). Distance from New Valdez (NV) is followed by distance from Old Valdez (OV).

NV 0 OV 4 (6.4 km) Intersection of Meals Avenue and the Richardson Highway

NV 0.4 (0.6 km) OV 3.6 (5.8 km) Paved double-ended turnout to north with Valdez information kiosk, maps, brochures, pay

phones.

NV 0.5 (0.8 km) OV 3.5 (5.6 km) DOT/PF district office.

NV 0.6 (1 km) OV 3.4 (5.5 km) Valdez highway maintenance station.

NV 0.9 (1.4 km) OV 3.1 (5 km) Double-ended turnout to north with litter barrels at Crooked Creek salmon spawning area and hatchery. Viewing platform on creek offers close-up look at salmon spawning in mid-summer and fall. U.S. Forest Service information station is staffed Memorial Day through Labor Day. Interpretive displays, information on cultural history and recreational opportunities. Migrating birds such as Canada geese and various ducks are often here. It is a game sanctuary; no shooting is allowed. Good spot for pictures.

NV 1.3 (2.1 km) OV 2.7 (4.3 km) Paved turnout to south.

NV 2 (3.2 km) OV 2 (3.2 km) Paved turnout to south.

NV 2.1 (3.4 km) OV 1.9 (3.1 km) Mineral Creek Loop Road through business and residential area on outskirts of Old Valdez comes out at Milepost NV 3.4. Access to Port of Valdez container terminal and grain elevators. The five grain elevators were built in 1982 in anticipation of the Port of Valdez receiving Delta barley for shipment.

NV 3.4 (5.5 km) OV 0.6 (1 km) Road toward mountains leads 0.6 mile/1 km to Valdez Airport, 2 miles/3.2 km to Valdez Glacier campground, and 3.9 miles/6.3 km to a parking area next to the glacial moraine of Valdez Glacier. Good views of the glacier area are *not* available from this spot, nor is Valdez Glacier a very spectacular glacier. Valdez Glacier campground has 101 sites, tent camping, covered picnic area, litter barrels, water, toilets and fireplaces; 15-day limit, camping fee. **CAUTION: Beware of bears.**

Mineral Creek Loop Road (turn toward ocean) leads to the original townsite of Valdez, destroyed during the Good Friday earthquake on March 27, 1964. A few homes and businesses are here now; there is little evidence of the earthquake's destruction.

NV 4 (6.4 km) OV 0 Former access road to Old Valdez, now blocked off. Milepost 0 of the Richardson Highway is located here.

(Southbound travelers note: Physical mileposts end here, it is 4 miles/6.4 km to downtown Valdez.)

Distance from Old Valdez (V) is followed by distance from Fairbanks (F). Physical mileposts begin northbound showing distance from Old Valdez.

V 0 F 364 (585.8 km) Milepost 0 of the Richardson Highway is located here at the former access road to Old Valdez.

1000 2097 P.01
Totem Inn Inc.
P. O. Box 648
Valdez, AK 99686

April 16, 1997

Valdez Legislative Information Office
State courthouse Room 13
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Representative Kubina:

I would like to offer my support for the renaming of The first few miles of the Richardson Hwy. to East Egan Street.

The current mile post system starts 4 miles out of Valdez due to the relocation of the town in 1964.

The current addresses are 100 Richardson highway 134 Richardson Hwy. ect. This is very often confused with mile 100 Richardson Hwy. and mile 134 Richardson Hwy. ect.

This will help businesses on this street to properly identify as a downtown business and our UPS packages will not be lost.

Best Regards

M. C. H. Inc.
134 Richardson Hwy.
Valdez, AK 99686

April 16, 1997

Valdez Legislative Information Office
State courthouse Room 13
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Representative Kubina:

I would like to offer my support for the renaming of The first few miles of the Richardson Hwy. to East Egan Street.

The current mile post system is not adequate and starts 4 miles out of Valdez due to the relocation of the town in 1964.

My current address is often confused with mile 134 on the Richardson Hwy. But I am actually in downtown Valdez.

This change needed

Sincerely,

Connie Ballow
secretary-treasurer

ROAD LOG

REGION - 5
MAINTENANCE STATION - 32

STATE ROUTE 190000 RICHARDSON HIGHWAY
VALDEZ-DELTA JUNCTION 271.67 MILES

ROUTE MILEAGE	REFERENCE POINT	BRIDGE REFERENCE	FEATURE	SIDE OF ROAD
.00	0		INSIDE VALDEZ CITY	
.00			INSIDE FAP 71	
.00			VALDEZ FERRY TERMINAL	LEFT
.02			TURN	RIGHT
.03			WAREHOUSE	RIGHT
.09			WAREHOUSE	LEFT
.10			BEGIN PAVED SURFACE	
.10			TURN	LEFT
.16			JCT WITH FIDALGO ROAD	RIGHT
.27			VALDEZ DOCK COMPANY	LEFT
.33			JCT WITH GALENA DRIVE	RIGHT
.38			JCT WITH HAZELET AVE/MINERAL CR DR	AHEAD
.38			JCT WITH W EGAN DRIVE	LEFT
.40			TURN	RIGHT
.42			NATIONAL BANK OF ALASKA	LEFT
.45			WESTERN AUTO VACANT	LEFT
.45			SEW FINE & RAINBOWS END	RIGHT
.49			BOTTLE STOP LIQUOR	LEFT
.49			VALDEZ OFFICE BLDG	LEFT
.52	1		JCT WITH TATITLEK AVENUE	BOTH
.57			CITY MUSEUM	LEFT
.57			LAMPLIGHTER MOTOR LODGE	RIGHT
.60			JCT WITH CHENEGA DRIVE	LEFT
.64			PIPELINE CLUB BAR	RIGHT
.64			VALDEZ MOTEL	RIGHT
.65			VALDEZ MARKET	LEFT
.67			HOBBY HUT GIFT SHOP	LEFT
.68			GLACIER BAR	LEFT
.69			FOUNTAIN OF BEAUTY SALON	LEFT

F A X T R A N S M I T T A L *****
M E M O
DEPT: Dallas FAX #: _____
FROM: Dallas PHONE: _____
CO _____ FAX #: _____
Post-it brand fax transmittal memo 7671
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ROAD LOG

REGION - 5
 MAINTENANCE STATION - 32

STATE ROUTE 190000 RICHARDSON HIGHWAY
 VALDEZ-DELTA JUNCTION 271.67 MILES

ROUTE MILEAGE	REFERENCE POINT	BRIDGE REFERENCE	FEATURE	SIDE OF ROAD
.69	1		STANDARD STATION 1ST ENT	RIGHT
.70			LAUNDROMAT	LEFT
.72			STANDARD STATION 2ND ENT	RIGHT
.72			1ST NATL BANK OF ANCHORAGE	LEFT
.73			JCT WITH MEALS AVENUE	BOTH
.83			TOTEM INN	RIGHT
1.06			ANIMAL SHELTER	RIGHT
1.26			JCT WITH DOT/PF 1ST ENTRANCE	LEFT
1.28			DOT/PF S C REGION OFFICES	LEFT
1.35			VALDEZ MAINT STATION	LEFT
1.37			JCT WITH DOT/PF 2ND ENTRANCE	LEFT
1.55	2		BEG BIKE PATH	LEFT
1.58			CROOKED CREEK TURNOUT BEG	LEFT
1.65			CROOKED CREEK TURNOUT END	LEFT
2.94	3		JCT WITH MINERAL CREEK LOOP	RIGHT
3.17			THE GLASS MAN	RIGHT
3.90	4		JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
4.09			ACRES FOOD SUPPLY & TIMS CAFE	RIGHT
4.16			JCT WITH VALDEZ AIRPORT RD	LEFT
4.16			JCT WITH MINERAL CREEK LOOP	RIGHT
4.16			END BIKE PATH	LEFT
4.25			JCT WITH ROAD	BOTH
4.38			JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
4.38			TURN OUT	LEFT
4.57	5		JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
4.71			JCT WITH ROAD	BOTH
4.80			JCT WITH ROAD	RIGHT
4.94			JCT WITH ROAD	RIGHT
5.27			JCT WITH ROAD	BOTH

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ROAD LOG

REGION - 5
MAINTENANCE STATION - 32

STATE ROUTE 190000 RICHARDSON HIGHWAY
VALDEZ-DELTA JUNCTION 271.67 MILES

ROUTE MILEAGE	REFERENCE POINT	BRIDGE REFERENCE	FEATURE	SIDE OF ROAD
5.48	5		JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
5.54	6		BRIDGE (OVER 104 FT) BEGINNING	
		900556	NO. 556 VALDEZ GLACIER STREAM	
			BRIDGE (OVER 104 FT) ENDING	
5.59			MILEPOST 1	RIGHT
5.67			JCT WITH ROAD	RIGHT
5.74			JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
5.83			MILEPOST 2	RIGHT
6.66	7		TURN OUT	LEFT
7.00			JCT WITH ENTRANCE TO CEMETERY 1	RIGHT
7.14			CEMETERY	RIGHT
7.16			JCT WITH ENTRANCE TO CEMETERY 2	RIGHT
7.18			REST AREA BEGIN	RIGHT
7.30			JCT WITH ROAD	LEFT
7.31			REST AREA END	RIGHT
7.36			ROBE RIVER	
7.38			JCT WITH DAYVILLE RD	RIGHT
7.48			JCT WITH SCALEHOUSE ENTRANCE	RIGHT
7.52	8		SCALEHOUSE VALDEZ	RIGHT
7.59			JCT WITH SCALEHOUSE ENTRANCE	RIGHT
7.64			MILEPOST 3	RIGHT
7.66			JCT WITH ROBE LAKE ROAD	LEFT
7.96			RAINBOW MOTEL 1ST ENT	LEFT
8.57	9		MILEPOST 4	RIGHT
8.64			RAINBOW MOTEL 2ND ENT	LEFT
8.70			JCT WITH ROAD	RIGHT
8.90			JCT WITH ROAD	RIGHT
9.28			MILEPOST 5	RIGHT
9.61	10		TURN OUT	RIGHT
10.48				

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