

**HB**

**248**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 248 | \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: DOT&PF  
 Title: East Egan Drive in Valdez BRU: Commissioner's Office  
 Component: Office of the Commissioner

Sponsor: Representative Kubina  
 Requester: House Transportation COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 530

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 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)

The department anticipates no significant costs associated with passage if this legislation.

Prepared by: Sam Kito III Phone: 465-3900  
 Special Assistant  
 Division: Office of the Commissioner Date: 4/24/97  
 Approved by: *Joseph C. Kubina* Date: 4/24/97  
 Commissioner  
 Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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House Minority Leader

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Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

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

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Jerry Ward, Chairman  
Senate Transportation Committee

FR: Representative Gene Kubina *Gene*

RE: House Bill 248

DATE: May 5, 1997

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Please consider this a request to hear HB 248, "An Act naming East Egan Drive in Valdez."

HB 248 renames a small section of the Richardson Highway, built after the 1964 earthquake, East Egan Drive. When the Richardson was extended to the new town site the milepost system did not change. This left businesses along that portion of the highway without a corresponding milepost. Naming East Egan Drive will allow the City of Valdez to give each location a local address.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please give me a call.

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## 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.

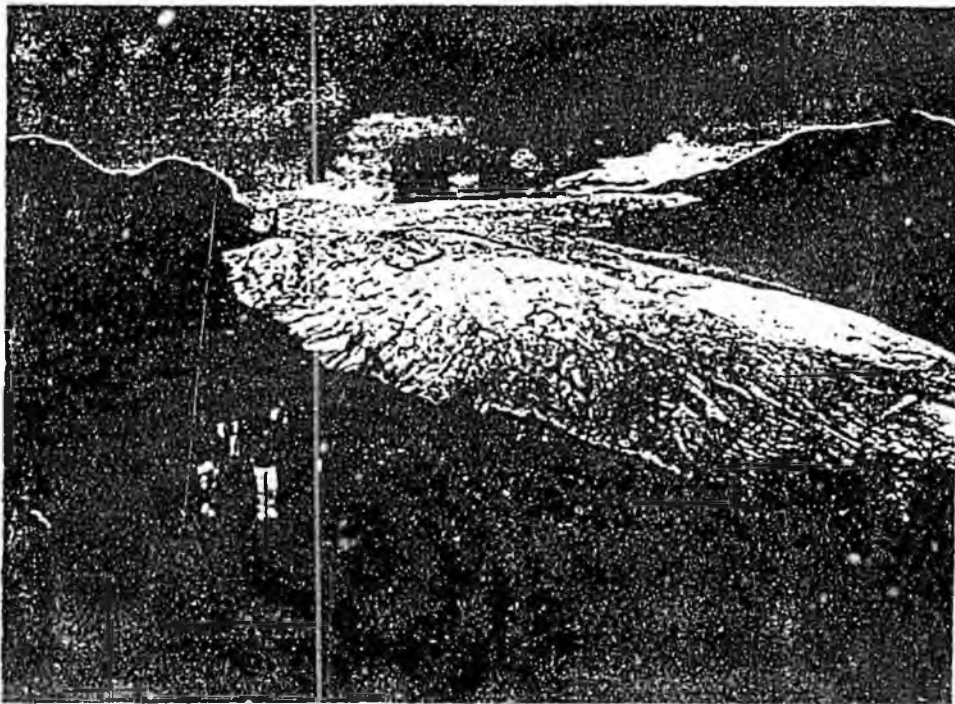
The Richardson Highway is Alaska's first road. As early as 1898 it was known to gold seekers as the Valdez to Eagle trail. In 1910 the trail was upgraded to a wagon road and lengthened to Fairbanks under the direction of General Wilds P. Richardson, the first president of the Alaska Road Commission. 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 visible feature in the Copper River Basin. (A. H. H. H.)

The Richardson Highway is a 107-mile (172 km) road 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 Atlas). Southbound travelers need log back to front.

The Richardson is a well-paved highway in good condition except for sporadic frost heaving. A new section of highway completed in 1959 bypasses the historic community of Copper Center. The MILEPOSTs log the old highway through town. The "new" Richardson Highway (bypass route) is of equal distance — 270 miles (434.5 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 1895 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 Liscum in Valdez with Fort Egbert in

Beaver. In 1901 the U.S. Army Signal Corps laid the first Alaska telegraph line along this route.

Gold stampedeers started up the trail again in 1902, this time headed for Fairbanks in hope 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. William F. Starbuck, first president of the Alaska Road Commission. The ADC upgraded 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 Mead's 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. Access to Milepost NV 2.4. Access to Port of Valdez container terminal and grain elevators. The five grain elevators were built in 1952 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 (OV) 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.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 97-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 248, "AN ACT RELATING TO NAMING EAST EGAN DRIVE"

WHEREAS, the Richardson Highway was Alaska's first road and has connected the City of Valdez with the interior of Alaska for almost 100 years; and

WHEREAS, milepost 0 of the Richardson Highway was at the old Valdez City Dock; and

WHEREAS, the Richardson Highway was extended from the Old Valdez town site to the new Valdez town site after the 1964 earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the milepost system was not changed after the extension of the Richardson Highway; and

WHEREAS, the current system for identifying locations along the Richardson Highway between Meals Avenue and the east end of Mineral Creek Loop is confusing; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 248 would rename the Richardson Highway between Meals Avenue and the east end of Mineral Creek Loop, to East Egan Drive; and

WHEREAS, changing the name would allow locations along East Egan Drive to clarify their address.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that the Valdez City Council support House Bill 248, naming that portion of the Richardson Highway between Meals Avenue and the east end of Mineral Creek Loop to "East Egan Drive "

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 21st day of April, 1997

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Daniel C. Cobb  
Dave C. Cobb, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Caples  
Sheri L. Caples, CMC, City Clerk



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