

HB

304

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/11/04

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 2/18/04

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 304

HB 304 JACK COGHILL BRIDGE TO THE INTERIOR

"An Act naming the Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- Same Title
- New Title

House Bill:

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # _____

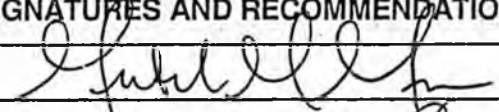
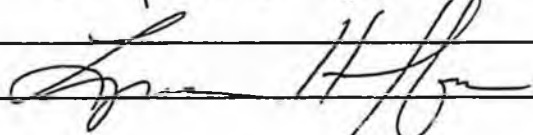
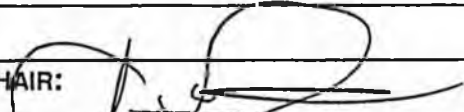
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#
DOT	1/12/04		✓		2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	✓			
	✓			
CHAIR: 	X			

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REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

HB 304 SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior

In 1961, State House Representative Jack Coghill was working on state funding to build a bridge over the Nenana River just south of Nenana at Rex. Part of the difficulty in getting funding for this bridge was that no roads were going to or coming from the area at the time. However, Jack knew that if a bridge was built, roads would soon connect the Interior to Southcentral Alaska.

The idea of a bridge with no connecting roads was so humorous, that some of the legislators called it "Jack Coghill's Bridge to Nowhere." Despite the criticism, Mr. Coghill held that the road would soon become a thoroughfare between Fairbanks and Anchorage. Mr. Coghill was successful in getting the funding, and once the appropriations for the bridge were made, it was built in record time. Soon after construction was completed, just as planned, roads to and from the bridge were built. Because of Mr. Coghill's efforts, the travel time between Anchorage and Fairbanks was cut from twelve hours to six, and the citizens of Alaska continue to benefit from the increased access that the bridge has provided.

Bridge #216, which currently has no name, crosses the Nenana River at the area called "Rex Crossing." At the frequent suggestion of my son Joshua, and other close friends of my father, I would like to name the bridge the "Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior" to commemorate the contributions of one of Alaska's great citizens. Jack Coghill has served the state in various positions throughout the twentieth century:

- Territorial legislature member
- Alaska Constitutional Convention member
- State House Representative
- State Senator
- Lieutenant Governor under Walter Hickel

His visionary ideas, years of service to Alaska, and longtime citizenship of the Nenana community are worthy of honor.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: HB 304
 (H) Publish Date: 1/16/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: DOT
 Title An Act naming the Jack Coghill Bridge BRU Highways & Aviation
 Component _____
 Sponsor Foster, Gruenberg, Holm
 Requester _____ Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

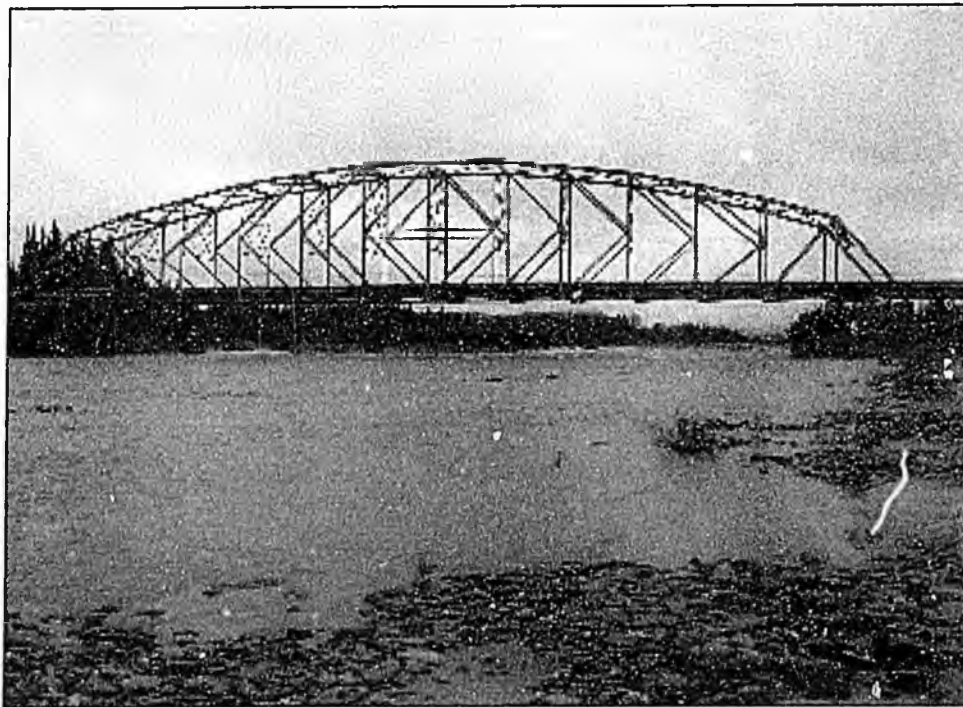
POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: John MacKinnon Phone 465-6973
 Division _____ Date/Time 1/12/04 9:14 AM
 Approved by: John MacKinnon Date 1/12/2004
 Agency DOT

Bridge 216 at Rex Crossing



Photo's provided by DOT.

House STATE AFFAIRS Minute



Jan 13, 2004

HB 304-JACK COGHILL BRIDGE TO THE INTERIOR

DRAFT

9:22 a.m.

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH announced that the next order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 304, "An Act naming the Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior."

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL, Alaska State Legislature, as sponsor of HB 304, prefaced his remarks by stating his intent is to honor his father and he means no self-aggrandizing. The purpose of the bill, he explained, is simply to name the bridge over the Nenana River at Rex the Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior.

REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL revealed that the story behind this is that when the Parks Highway was being surveyed to connect Anchorage and Fairbanks, Jack Coghill got an appropriation through the legislature that actually preceded the money for the highway; therefore, the bridge was actually built before the highway got to it. He said his father "took a little bit of ribbing" as the author to "the bridge to nowhere."

REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL noted that this year his father will be one of the oldest members of the Alaska State Constitutional Convention, he was in the territorial legislature, and he served as lieutenant governor. He said he knows that naming things for people is generally done after they die; however, he explained that his son, Joshua, who heard the story of the bridge from someone in Healy, asked him to author this piece of legislation. Representative Coghill mentioned spending time with his father after his mother, Frances, died a couple of years ago, and he said he has come to think that [naming the bridge after his father] is an appropriate thing to do. He said he thinks this will honor Alaska, generally, as well as those who cross that bridge who know his father personally.

9:24 a.m.

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH suggested that the bridge be named after Representative Coghill's father and mother.

REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL said he would not want to do that, because his mother already has a foundation in her name for children who have speech impediments, which was something that was "part of her heart" and probably more appropriate. Since the bridge is a legislative matter dating back the early 1960s, he said he thinks it appropriate to name it after his father.

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG moved to report HB 304 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note. There being no objection, HB 304 was moved out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

House TRANSPORTATION Minute



May 12, 2003

HB 304-JACK COGHILL BRIDGE TO THE INTERIOR

CO-CHAIR HOLM announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 304, "An Act naming the Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior."

CO-CHAIR HOLM began the meeting by referring to pictures of the bridge [supplied by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)] which crosses the Nenana River at the area called "Rex Crossing."

Number 0148

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL, Alaska State Legislature, speaking as the sponsor of HB 304, clarified that the bridge is currently called "Bridge #216." He said there is a story behind naming of the bridge, and there is also a story behind the bridge itself. He told the committee of a conversation that his middle son, Joshua, had with Joshua's grandpa [Jack Coghill]. One day, as they were driving across this bridge on their way to Healy, grandpa told the story of how this bridge came to be, and ever since hearing that story, Joshua "put it in his head that he wanted to do something about it" - that is, to name the bridge after his grandfather.

Number 0177

REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL then told the committee that in the early 1960s, during the time his father [Jack Coghill] was in the Senate, before there was even a road coming to or from the bridge, it received appropriation under his guidance. After construction, there wasn't a road to or from the bridge for another 15 months. He said that he's had a difficult time finding people who were in the legislature during that time who could tell him more of the story. He explained that he doesn't have more of the story from his dad because he hasn't told him about HB 304 and is hoping that the naming of the bridge would come as a surprise.

CO-CHAIR HOLM commented that a lot of the people who served with Jack Coghill are no longer with us. For the record, he noted the passing of former Senator Bill Waugaman that morning, a great man who would be missed.

CO-CHAIR MASEK said this honoring of the Representative's father was well deserved.

Number 0501

CO-CHAIR MASEK moved to report HB 304 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal note. There being no objection, HB 304 was reported from the House Transportation Standing Committee.