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Aug. 13, 2013

DOT & PF

Mr. James W. Scholl haineshighway@alaska.gov

Alex Viteri alex.viteri@dot.gov

Re: Haines Highway Project

Delta Western has been using the Haines Highway with our commercial fuel trucks for over 20 years. We have had only one issue during that time frame, which was a black ice situation and the truck went off the road with no spill nor damage to the truck. This is an outstanding Safety Record. However, we have had dozens of close calls on the Haines Highway at corners at 14, 17 and 18 mile. Have we been lucky? Well not really. Our contract drivers know the dangers of those corners, along with photographers in the highway, slow moving traffic looking at eagles, etc. Safety is paramount with our company and others commercial trucking operations that use the highway. This improvement will enhance the Safety of the Haines Highway and possibility save lives and prevent trucking accidents.

Sincerely,

Fred Gray

Terminal Mgr and Southeast Lead

907-766-3190 or Fredg@deltawestern.com

From: Helen Turner [<mailto:helen99827@live.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 3:16 PM

To: DOT SER HainesHighway

Subject: Haines Highway Project

Jim Scholl Project Environmental Coordinator:

I am all for the Haines Highway Project to go forward as planned. The road needs to be done.

Thank You

Don Turner Jr.

P.O. box 85

Haines, Alaska9982

From: Helen Turner [<mailto:helen99827@live.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 3:13 PM

To: DOT SER HainesHighway

Subject: Haines Highway Project

Attention Jim Scholt Project Environmental Coordinator:

I am for the Haines highway Project and I feel it should be done.

Helen Turner

P.O. Box 85

Haines, Alaska 99827

Julie Cozzi

From: Betty Banaszak [bettyaban@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 2:06 PM
To: Julie Cozzi
Subject: Haines highway repair

To whom it may concern:

I feel it is urgent that our highway from the new section at 25 mile to town be completely repaired, straightened and widened. With federal monies available now it is a given that we proceed with this long awaited project. To not do so at this time would be, to put it mildly, an irresponsible and unwise decision. Just the fact that Haines Highway is THE ONLY ROAD GOING IN AND OUT OF HAINES from Canada and the rest of Alaska should speak for itself. Coupled with the fact that we live in a very challenging ecosystem of rain, fog, ice and extreme snow levels, it is all the more reason to get on this project quickly and without delay.

Do I have to further state that we have our own "locals" who travel from 26 mile to town at least 5 days a week serving the health care (REACH, Cornerstone and Assisted Living) and trades occupations (construction, remodeling, flooring installation, etc.) year round.

19 of our people at Covenant Life Center are seniors who make regular trips to town for medical reasons. Haines can well boast a caring, skilled professional health care community through SEARHC and private practitioners. The challenge is getting there from 26 mile year round!

I will relate just one of many personal experiences which I have had on this road. Two years ago my head was "on fire" with a severe migraine. My husband drove me to town at 6:00 a.m. crawling in a blinding snow storm in whiteout conditions. How I would have loved to travel a straighter, better road and have that emergency IV injected sooner.

Addressing those who think that preserving the eagles and moose is more important than protecting the lives of tourists who come to Haines, the "world's best kept secret" for "the trip of a lifetime": all we need is one tragic tour bus accident to change the minds of the naysayers. And I will interject here that the eagles who make their home in Haines and their feathered visitors who arrive in the winter for their seasonal salmon run don't seem to be deterred by the passing traffic. The greater problem falls upon the viewers for whom the road conditions are very marginal at that time of year.

Concerning our moose population, I would suggest that a wider, straighter road with broader visibility would minimize the number of road kills that occur from sudden unsuspecting appearances of these animals roaming the roadside.

I would urge the DOT and the Borough Assembly to make the responsible decision for an immediate and affirmative decision to straighten, widen and upgrade the infrastructure of Haines Highway from 25 mile to town....for the sake of our own people who depend on traveling this ONLY ROAD for our livelihood and town services, for the visitors who delight in the pristine beauty of Haines's greatest offering--her majestic unrivalled scenery--and the wildlife that graces our land and skies year round.

Sincerely,

Betty Banaszak

Date: Tue, 13 Aug 2013 01:58:16 PM MDT
From: "Scott Bradford" <bradfordscott@usa.net>
To: <Haineshighway@alaska.gov>
Subject: haines highway

Dear Sir

I am writing this letter in support of the Haines Highway upgrade that is urgently needed ASAP! Over the years we have had many people die and injured on our highway, these planned up grades will certainly help reduce these accidents. With a wider and longer site distances you will be able to better see a moose or trees and rocks etc. are blocking the road. We need to move this project along as quickly as possible with out delay!

Thank You
Scott Bradford
Haines Alaska

CC Haines Borough

RECEIVED Haines Borough
AUG 13 2013
Clerk's Office

Julie Cozzi

From: Bengie Stuart [bengiesbusiness@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 1:12 PM
To: State of Alaska Highway Project; Julie Cozzi
Subject: Haines Highway Project

8-13-13

To: Jim Scholl,

I have lived in Haines for 66 years and I am for the Haines Highway Project for a lot of reasons:

1. Safety
2. Traffic Flow
3. Scenic Byway
4. Economic Value

All of these reasons are good ones and I also believe that the improvements will NOT affect the eagles. So please go ahead with the project

From: Joe Poor [<mailto:sjpoor@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 11:13 AM

To: DOT SER HainesHighway

Subject: Haines highway

My husband and I would like to add our comments regarding the improvements to the Haines Highway. YES! We definitely want the work to be done. It has been needed for years and it is a safety issue for anyone traveling on the road. Our road out of Haines is one of the community benefits we enjoy and value. We also recognize it is one of the few economic assets our community has to offer over other SE Communities.

We apologize for Lynn Canal Conservation (AKA **CAVE**) Citizens Against Virtually Everything) membership's continuous misrepresentation of our community's position on potential beneficial projects. Once again it is obvious that they are speaking loud and clear against any project that might be economically beneficial to our community of Haines. We do not believe they speak for most of the citizens of Haines. The current road is falling apart and needs to be brought up to current safety standards and improved for meet potential future capacity.

Please proceed with our highway project as designed by DOT.

Sincerely,
Susan & Joe Poor
PO Box 594
976 Young Road
Haines, Alaska 99827

From: Walt [<mailto:walt@meialaska.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 10:22 AM
To: DOT SER HainesHighway
Subject: Highway Construction MIle 3 To MIle 25

We understand there is opposition to the improvements of the Haines Highway. As a concerned citizen and driver of that highway from mile 26 to the city of Haines it is imperative that the improvements be made. Making improvements will considerably improve driving and safety issues that now exist. With fuel costs rising I fear that more and more people will start to take alternate forms of transportation which the highway currently does not support.

We enjoy many benefits of a staple economy and if the road helps to improve that condition and offers the City of Haines additional improvements in parks and recreation facilities than improving the highway should not be a question.

Sincerely,

Walt Atkinson
HC 60 Box 2634
Haines, AK 99827