

September 17, 2012

MEMO TO: Reuben Yost  
SE Region, D&ES  
Preconstruction/Special Projects  
6860 Glacier Highway  
P.O. Box 112506  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506  
25007

Thank you for your note of 9/12/12. I understand alternative 3 as now defined and it does follow the west side of the Lynn Canal to Pyramid Harbor. However, it must be improved by extending it directly to Haines Highway, at 8-Mile, allowing all north bound traffic to continue north. This modification would be defined as alternative 3b. It also provides a direct highway connection to the Haines Lutak Road Ferry Terminal for Skagway bound ferry traffic.

The Haines Borough Assembly has approved this Alternative 3b route in the Haines Comprehensive Plan. Please introduce Alternative 3b to replace Alternative 3, as soon as possible, in the Draft SEIS

Several improvements to reduce costs are listed below:

1. The terminal at William Henry Bay could be unmanned, since it is unnecessary to sell tickets at this location; as initially proposed in Alternative 2b at Katzehin.
2. During construction of the 3b highway a single new Swath Class shuttle ferry could go directly from Slate Cove to Haines and Skagway. This would allow time for construction of the 3b highway and a second Swath Class ferry.
3. It would also relieve the schedule overload at the Auke Bay Ferry Terminal.
4. The Bellingham day ferry would arrive on Monday to allow for Swath Class ferry maintenance.

Jack Wenner  
P.O. Box 1614  
Haines, Alaska 99827  
Phone: 766-3566

From: Stephanie Scott  
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 9:50 AM  
To: artstudioalaska@yahoo.com  
Cc: Julie Cozzi; jacnnanak@yahoo.com  
Subject: West Side Road

Dear Rob,

I just took a look at the October 11 PC packet and I wondered why Mr. Wenner's letter was not included since it is on the agenda? Might it be sent out now as a supplemental? Sometimes we have to do that when we miss a piece of information for an Assembly meeting. I especially think the letter should go up on the website.

Also, on the agenda it says that this letter contradicts the official position of the Borough. Probably that statement needs backup with documents illustrating the official position. Wouldn't you agree? I keep running into unfamiliar faces in public places and I am betting that there is a host of people unfamiliar with the various resolutions passed and the statements in the Comprehensive Plan. Would it be too much to ask for copies of the resolutions and excerpts from the Plan that illustrate a contradiction? I, for one, am not totally convinced, absent the documentation, that a contradiction exists. I am "remembering" words in one resolution or another that did include support for a West Side Road. And the Assembly recently inserted language in the final version of the Comprehensive Plan that did indicate interest in a West Side Road. I am not sure rejection of a West Side Road is quite as firm in local public policy as the statement on the PC agenda indicates. However, all can be made clear by reference to documents. I think it would be a very good idea to have these documents before the PC so that we can avoid "I remember when..." statements - which have a tendency to lead to misapprehension. Some national iconic character or other once said, "The facts, ma'am, nothing but the facts," and that is probably very good advice!

Thanks for thinking about these missing elements.

Stephanie

From: Stephanie Scott  
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:45 AM  
To: Julie Cozzi; Rob Goldberg  
Subject: West Lynn Canal Road

Hi Julie and Rob,

It looks like the Resolution that the Planning Commission might want to have at its side on Thursday evening is 11-11-316, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan. I'd like to look at that myself! I believe that the Assemblies have usually incorporated a preference for a West Lynn Canal Road "if there must be a road." That could be acknowledged during the discussion. This position may very well be at odds with a position that the Planning Commission has taken. That's OK, but we should be clear. I wonder if there are minutes, etc. that shows a definitive position of either the present or a past Planning Commission. See excerpt below.

S

Comprehensive Plan: West Lynn Canal Road

“In November 2011 Haines Borough reaffirmed its preference for improved Alaska Marine Highway service in the Lynn Canal and opposition to development of an east Lynn Canal Highway (Resolution 11-11-316). Concerns expressed by Haines residents are that the road would divert tourists to Skagway, that some local spending would shift to Juneau if it was less expensive to get there with a vehicle, an objection to losing the option of thorough ferry service to Juneau, that an east Lynn Canal road will be too costly to maintain and too dangerous in the winter given the avalanche crossings, it will be closed periodically in the winter making a trip to Juneau less reliable than at present, concern over potential visual and environmental impact to Lynn Canal and Berners Bay, the hardship this will mean for foot travelers and that no commercial business is likely to pick-up foot passenger transport between distant ferry terminals and communities, and a preference for a West Lynn Canal Road if there must be a road.” Page 131 of the Public Hearing Draft

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT OF RESOLUTIONS 04-04-042 AND 07-11-116, AND ITS CONTINUED PREFERENCE FOR IMPROVED FERRY SERVICE RATHER THAN AN EAST LYNN CANAL HIGHWAY.**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has requested public input on the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan *2011 Update Scoping Report*; and

**WHEREAS**, the *2011 Update Scoping Report* includes an alternative that would build an East Lynn Canal Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, through Resolutions 04-04-042 and 07-11-116 the Haines Borough has expressed and reaffirmed its preference for improved Alaska Marine Highway service in the Lynn Canal and opposed development of an East Lynn Canal Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, Appendix C of the Juneau Access Draft Environmental Impact Statement states a majority of residents surveyed in Juneau, Haines and Skagway prefer improved ferry service rather than road access to Juneau; and

**WHEREAS**, the Record of Decision of the Juneau Access Final Environmental Impact Statement determined an East Lynn Canal Highway would be twice as expensive to operate and maintain as existing ferry service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Golder Associates Geotechnical Investigation found 112 geological hazards that, in addition to 36 active avalanche paths, would endanger public safety and close an East Lynn Canal Highway frequently, thereby decreasing Juneau access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Juneau Access Final Environmental Impact Statement determined there would likely be 600 non-fatal and 8 fatal accidents over a 40 year period on an East Lynn Canal Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Marine Highway has an excellent safety record; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Transportation Advisory Board advocates investments in new ferries,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Haines Borough Assembly:

Section 1: Reaffirms its support of Resolutions 04-04-042 and 07-11-116 and its continued preference for improved ferry service rather than an East Lynn Canal Highway;

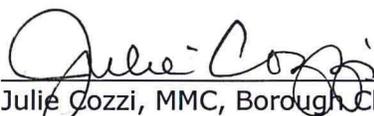
Section 2: Recommends that the state focus planning and funding strategies for transportation improvements in Southeast Alaska on enhancing marine transportation options recommended by the Marine Transportation Advisory Board with special emphasis on the deployment of Alaska Class ferries and that consideration of a Berner's Bay ferry terminal include an inherent public transportation component to support walk-on ferry passengers;

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Section 3: Shall submit copies of this resolution to Andy Hughes, Planning Chief for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan, Governor Sean Parnell, Senator Albert Kookesh, and Representative Bill Thomas.

ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2011.

ATTEST:

  
Julie Cozzi, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
Stephanie Scott, Mayor

