

Statement by Ivan Moore

In our latest Alaska Survey conducted in June 2011, we included questions on what Alaskans of thought of the proposed Knik Arm Bridge project.

621 registered voters were interviewed by random digit dialing both cell phones and landlines producing a demographically representative statewide sample. For a survey of this size the margin of error is +/- 3.8%. The survey was conducted June 16-20, 2011, before the publicity of the Mayor suing on the Bridge right of way through the port announced July 6 and before the mid-August stories in the Anchorage News and other publications in which KABATA consultants affirmed that the state would be responsible for any toll shortfall.

The June survey results show that a narrow majority of Alaskans favor construction of the Bridge – 25% strongly favor, almost 27 % mildly favor, 6% neutral, 14 % mildly oppose, 17% strongly oppose and almost 12% not sure.

The poll also asked two questions which describe two Bills before the legislature. When asked if the State General Fund should appropriate \$150 Million to KABATA, 32% of Alaskans say they favor while 49% oppose. Just 27% of Alaskans favor the proposed state guarantee in the event of toll shortfalls, while 51% oppose.

At the time the poll was taken, Alaskans narrowly favored the construction of the Knik Arm Bridge. But the negative reaction to these funding issues suggests that this support for the bridge would probably be significantly weakened if voters became fully aware of them.