

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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716 W. 4th Ave, Rm. 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
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SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS RULES COMMITTEE CHAIR

December 17, 2012

Andrew Niemiec
Executive Director, KABATA
820 E. 15th Ave
Anchorage, Ak 99501

Dear Mr. Niemiec,

This letter is a request for the latest cost estimate for the Knik Arm Bridge. I understand the last cost estimate made public was for an 8200' span. This figure may not have reflected any of the additional work required on the East approach under KABATA's agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage or any other recent changes in design, including the lane capacity to be constructed in Phase 1.

Additionally, the 2007 Shannon and Wilson Geotech Report and Memorandum recommended additional work to ensure the safety and viability of the project. Please provide me with an update on the status of the projects listed below and detail what adjustments, if any, have been made to the 2007 PND estimate based on this additional work.

- **Preliminary Site Characterization.** Prior to preliminary design, a preliminary site characterization program should be conducted to provide comprehensive geotechnical data along the entire alignment to the depths required for pile design and site response analyses. The program, therefore, should include deep borings (with detailed sampling, lab testing, and in-situ testing) integrated with a detailed geophysical exploration program.

- **Pile Installation Demonstration Project.** Prior to final design, a full-scale pile installation demonstration project (PIDP) should be conducted to verify pile capacity and constructability. The PIDP should be based on typical pile sizes developed during preliminary design, and a sufficient number of piles should be installed to bracket the range of soil conditions defined in the preliminary site characterization.

• **Final Site Characterization.** The final site characterization should be conducted to provide pier-specific characterization for the final proposed bridge alignment. Borings should be drilled to depths in excess of the planned pile lengths and zone of influence of the piles."ⁱ

In sum, I am requesting KABATA's most current cost estimate for the Bridge and overall project. Please detail which of the following factors -- the current longer 9200' span, the revised eastern approach, any changes to lane capacity in the currently defined Phase 1 and any cost changes made as a result of any additional geotechnical work done since 2007 if any -- are included or not included in producing that estimate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

Senator Johnny Ellis

CC: Representative Les Gara
Bob French, President Government Hill Community Council
Mayor Dan Sullivan
Assemblyman Pat Flynn
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich

ⁱ p. 50 S&W Geotechnical Memo