

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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February 16, 2010

The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Mayor
Municipality of Anchorage
632 W 6th Avenue, Suite 840
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mayor Sullivan:

In light of tonight's assembly discussion, I want to reiterate the State's support for the Knik Arm Crossing project. For the record, the State of Alaska supports the Knik Arm Crossing Project and the efforts of the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA). The bridge is an important link in Alaska's transportation infrastructure. It will provide an additional link between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley, two areas experiencing high levels of growth. The bridge will also provide access to developable land, a necessary commodity for economic growth. As Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), I can assure you that DOT&PF supports the continued efforts of KABATA to move the project forward, and believes that the project should remain in the Anchorage Long-Range Transportation Plan as a short-term project.

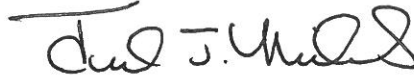
The Knik Arm Crossing is a major project with statewide significance. Initially, this project will provide a new connection between Anchorage and the Matanuska Susitna Borough. In future years, the project linked with upgraded roads could provide a direct connection to the Parks Highway; the main corridor for passenger and commercial traffic serving communities and accessing resources in interior and northern Alaska.

The project is moving forward with considerable effort and consultation between the Federal Highway Administration and the National Marine Fisheries regarding the listing of the belugas as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We believe these efforts will result in the project receiving its long anticipated Record of Decision (ROD) later this year.

On behalf of the State of Alaska, I urge you and the Anchorage Assembly members on the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions Policy Committee to support the Knik

Arm Crossing by voting to keep it in the short-term projects of the Long-Range Transportation Plan for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank T. Richards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Frank T. Richards, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Assembly Members, Municipality of Anchorage