

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Bill Walker
State of Alaska
State Capitol, Room 305
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001



Re: 2017 Governor's Budget Requests

Dear Governor Walker,

In preparation of your 2017 Budget, the Borough Assembly would ask you to consider inclusion of four capital projects that will enhance the State's safety, security, and economy:

- Port MacKenzie Rail Extension—\$125M
- Septic & Leachate Facility—\$2.5M
- School Access Transportation Safety Bond—\$15M
- Seward-Meridian Extension—\$30M

We certainly appreciate your care and consideration of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this past year.

Completing the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project is the Assembly priority. This will be a key economic development asset for the State of Alaska. It will provide cost effective transportation that will encourage resource development. It will inject additional revenue into the Alaska Railroad Corporation, and will drive down energy costs to Alaska's Interior. We are two-thirds complete and must continue the funding and construction for this investment to bear fruit. Interior Alaska, the AKLNG project, the ASAP project, and the Alaskan economy will all benefit with the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has been informed by the Municipality of Anchorage of their desire to discontinue receipt of septic waste from outside their municipal boundary. The vast majority of our residents use private septic systems, which rely solely on this service. We are requesting State assistance of \$2.5 Million for planning and development of a \$25 Million system. The completion of this project will benefit the citizens of Anchorage as well as our homeowners.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, as you are aware, is experiencing rapid population growth. We are excited for the growth however it is putting a strain on our public infrastructure. Two major road projects will significantly help improve transportation safety. First, we have a citizen-approved bond that requires a 50% State match (\$15M) for safe access to Borough schools. The second project is the DOT Seward-Meridian extension project that will create a second north-south corridor (\$30M). This will relieve some traffic on the over-populated Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

The Borough Assembly-approved priorities enable us to continue to build infrastructure in the fastest growing community of Alaska. These four projects have been our priorities consistently for the past five years. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

John Moosey
Borough Manager

cc: John Harris, MSB State Lobbyist