

By: Jessica Smith
Introduced: June 6, 2016
Public Hearing: June 20, 2016
Action: Approved

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 16-25**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION SUPPORTING PLANNING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERSHIP PROCESS TO ENSURE BETTER COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES, THE BOROUGH, AND THE CITIES OF PALMER, WASILLA, AND HOUSTON.

WHEREAS, over the last decade there have been several transportation projects within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that have been postponed or delayed due to communication and/or collaboration issues between the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough); and

WHEREAS, these delays and postponements have come at significant costs in terms of project budgets, public trust, safety, and political support; and

WHEREAS, the Borough, the cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston (cities), and DOT&PF hosted a Regional Transportation Planning Workshop (workshop) in 2014 to specifically address the challenges, opportunities and issues facing regional transportation planning and to encourage the better communication and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants identified seven key opportunities for regional transportation planning improvements:

- Link Land Use and Transportation Planning Efforts
- Emphasize Regional Planning and Coordination
- Improve Connectivity Across the Region
- Ensure Maintenance Budgets Meet Infrastructure Needs
- Collaborate to Fund Projects
- Advance Shared Decision-Making
- Encourage Stakeholder and Public Involvement; and

WHEREAS, since 2014 the borough, cities, and DOT&PF have been working to implement projects and strategies identified in the report and action plan developed from the workshop; and

WHEREAS, identified in the workshop report and action plan, the borough, cities, and DOT&PF applied jointly for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant in 2014 and developed a self-assessment report in 2015 to understand and prepare for the region's future designation as a Metropolitan Planning organization; and

WHEREAS, the DOT&PF awarded a grant in the amount of one million dollars to the Mat-Su Borough in 2015 to continue current efforts in regional transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, of the several projects identified for funding by the DOT&PF grant, the development of a Regional Transportation

Planning Partnership Process (partnership process) was included;
and

WHEREAS, the development of the partnership process was highlighted in the report and action plan and will help to address each of the improvement opportunities identified by workshop participants; and

WHEREAS, communication and cooperation is critical to the development and implementation of the partnership process; and

WHEREAS, before completely developing the process, staff is seeking support for the overall concept and a willingness to participate in the development of the partnership process; and

WHEREAS, the partnership process is intended to create a proactive management approach to change the paradigm of how the borough, cities and partner agencies plan for, manage and fund transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the conceptual partnership process would work as such: 1) It would begin before design on any major project that meet mutually an agreed upon criteria. 2) A formal agreement is drafted and agreed upon by all parties outlining the governance structure for managing the project. 3) Together the partnership defines the problem and outlines the public involvement strategy. 4) Once the problem is defined, the partnership drafts performance measures and project goals to evaluate their decisions and track their progress. 5) The partnership is

involved in strategizing solutions and developing funding/implementation plans. Partners share resources to advance the identified strategies and solutions. 6) The partnership is not disbanded when the project enters the design phase; it follows the project providing oversight and ensuring the goals and performance measures are being met. 7) The partnership continues to evaluate its success after construction and through that life cycle of the transportation facility; and

WHEREAS, the partnership would create an opportunity for improved regional governance over major transportation projects by allowing the pooling of resources, collaborative problem solving, and prioritized investments. The combination of these elements brings the region an improved ability to operate with a shared vision, save time and money, regain the public trust, empower staff to make the right decisions, and build positive political capital; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is obligated by 23 CFR450.210(b) to have a documented process for consulting non-metropolitan local officials for both the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Statewide Transportation Plan (SLRTP).

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby supports planning efforts to develop a regional transportation planning partnership program to ensure better communication and collaboration between the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Borough and the Cities of Palmer, Wasilla and Houston.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 1st day of August, 2016.



JOHN KLAPPERICH, Chair

ATTEST



MARY BRODIGAN, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: *Klapperich, Anderson, Healy, Vague, Bendig, and Adams*
NO: