

By: Commissioner Kelly
Public Hearing: 01/26/10
Failed: 01/26/10

**WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 10-04**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE CREATION OF A ONE-WAY EAST/WEST COUPLET UTILIZING THE PARKS HIGHWAY FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WITH THE CREATION OF A YET TO BE DETERMINED ROUTE EASTBOUND SOUTH OF LAKE LUCILLE.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is upgrading the Parks Highway from mile 44 – 52 in the near future;

WHEREAS, the design plans, environmental impact statements, and public comments are still under review and consideration and may be modified for a route revision at or near the termini;

WHEREAS, the existing Parks Highway from the Seward Highway to mile 44+ is currently over capacity and needs to be addressed and resolved;

WHEREAS, the existing roadway has limited right-of-way through most of this area;

WHEREAS, the traffic capacity and subsequent congestion is currently operating at an unacceptable level of service F for more than the design hour and would require more than six lanes of service to improve the service;

WHEREAS, safety concerns, capacity, and level of service of said roadway can only be improved to an acceptable level of service by providing more lanes of travel through the development of another parallel roadway as currently considered by Wasilla Planning Department and City of Wasilla Public Works;

WHEREAS, the Wasilla Planning Department and the Wasilla Planning Commission are in the process of updating the City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, a couplet design would provide accessibility to all business that currently exist;

WHEREAS, the couplet design would open additional development opportunities and improve economic development and growth;

WHEREAS, the return route should be addressed as a transportation corridor and include the Alaska Railroad. The route should be designed to eliminate railroad at grade crossings providing safety for emergency vehicles, school buses, public transportation, bicyclists, and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, the growth and beauty of these improved roadway services will also improve attraction for citizens, tourism, and subsequent business growth;

WHEREAS, the highway funds, public safety grants, homeland security grants, and hazardous waste mitigation grants for transportation improvements can be identified. These may provide additional funding for the design, right-of-way acquisitions, and construction costs involved;

WHEREAS, because the Alaska Railroad has expressed no interest to relocate the railroad due to high costs involved, they may reconsider due to funding availability under a transportation corridor proposal;

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska DOT&PF has advised us that traffic needs in our downtown community now require more lanes than now available, they would welcome a proposed route solution with cooperation of the City of Wasilla;

WHEREAS, our concerns for our community and its development along with cooperation of other political entities and our citizens, will help in addressing the needs and safety for all while it will reduce overall costs and raise tax revenue in the process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla Planning Commission supports the Parks Highway modifications needed and a parallel Transportation Corridor designed and built on the south of Lake Lucille and operating as a couplet traffic facility running east and west.

FAILED by the Wasilla Planning Commission on January 26, 2010.

APPROVED:

A.C. BUSWELL III, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jim Holycross, City Planner

VOTE: YES: Kelly
NO: Hall, Wall, Miller, Buswell, Webb