

By: Planning
Public Hearing: 04/10/12
Adopted: 04/10/12

**WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 12-08**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT, PURSUANT TO WMC 2.60.010(B)(4), THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL FORWARD A RESOLUTION TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES REGARDING THE PROPOSED PARKS HIGHWAY LUCAS ROAD TO BIG LAKE CUTOFF RECONSTRUCTION EXPRESSING CONCERNS THAT THE PROPOSED FOUR-LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY HAS NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2012 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING THAT WAS HELD PURSUANT TO AS 35.30.010.

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla is concerned that due deference has not been given to public comment provided at the February 28, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting regarding the Parks Highway proposed four-lane divided highway project; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 35.30.010(c) allows the Department of Transportation to proceed with the project "if final disapproval" is not received by an affected municipality within 90 days from the date the project was submitted to the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the proposed four-lane divided highway was presented to the Wasilla Planning Commission on February 28, 2012 for the first time, and as such, the deadline for the municipality to act by resolution is May 28, 2012, as understood by the City of Wasilla to avoid the automatic provisions of AS 35.30.101(c); and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla has had concerns over the widening of the Parks Highway since 1996 when the City Council adopted Resolution No. WR96-02 that stated, "access to businesses fronting the Parks Highway should be a determining factor in the design of the roadway"; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution WR96-02 further indicated a four-lane Parks Highway design through a business district should not be divided by a raised median, but rather include a center turn lane (five lane) configuration for business access; and

WHEREAS, sixteen years later, business access continues to be a major factor in the roadway design of the Parks Highway widening to four-lanes from Wasilla to Big Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Wasilla Planning Commission requests the Department of Transportation continue to work with the business district to address their access concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wasilla Planning Commission hereby requests that the Wasilla City Council forward a resolution to the Department of Transportation disapproving the proposed Parks Highway four-lane divided highway design from Lucus Road to Big Lake Cut-Off in accordance with WMC 2.60.010(B)(4) and AS 35.30.010(c) so the public can have more than 90 days to work with the Department of Transportation on business access issues.

APPROVED by the Wasilla Planning Commission on April 10, 2012.

APPROVED:


A.C. Buswell, III, Chairman

ATTEST:


Tina Crawford, AICP, City Planner

VOTE: YES: Buswell, Kelly, Ledford, and Webb
NO: DeHart and Miller