

By: Administration
Adopted: June 11, 2012

Vote: Harris, Holler, Katkus, Sullivan-Leonard, Wall and Woodruff in favor.

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 12-19**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING CURRENT PROVISIONS OF LAW IN SAFETEA-LU THAT TREATS THE ALASKA RAILROAD IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER THE SAME AS OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad, a state owned entity, operates passenger service as part of its mission to support the residents and economy of Alaska; and has provided year-round public transportation for the people of Alaska since 1923; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad provides essential passenger service to many Alaskans off the road system, delivers hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Denali National Park and partners with the Chugach National Forest to serve a road-less area as a "Transit in the Parks" provider, offers free travel to U.S. military on official orders, and lowers resident and student rates to support the local Alaska population; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration recently determined that the Alaska Railroad does not meet the definition of year-round public transportation eligible to participate in federal transit funding programs; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad is inequitably treated when compared to other public transportation providers in the United States due to an administrative decision allowing only 10 percent of the Alaska Railroad system miles to count as passenger service miles; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Congressional Delegation corrected this inequity in 2005 by agreeing to a compromise that allows the Alaska Railroad to count at least 60 percent of its system miles towards the federal funding formula; and

WHEREAS, the current Federal Transit Administration 60 percent formula calculation is unfairly and incorrectly being characterized as an "earmark" to justify the reduction in formula funding for the Alaska Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad issued bonds in 2006 and 2007 with the full federal backing of the Federal Transit Authority formula funds and could risk defaulting on those loans if the formula funding is changed; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in Federal Transit Authority formula funds places the Alaska Railroad in serious fiscal jeopardy and could financially devastate the Alaska Railroad; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in formula funding to the Alaska Railroad will send those funds to other public transportation providers and will not reduce federal spending or the budget deficit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla City Council supports maintaining current provisions of law in SAFETEA-LU that treat the Alaska Railroad in a fair and equitable manner, the same as other public transportation providers in the United States.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on June 11, 2012.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]