

By: Department of Public Works

Adopted: March 24, 2014

Vote: Buswell, Harris, O'Barr, Sullivan-Leonard, Wall and Wilson in favor

**City of Wasilla
Resolution Serial No. 14-11**

A Resolution of the Wasilla City Council supporting the Matanuska-Susitna Borough grant applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program for funding the Palmer-Wasilla Highway Corridor Plan and a Sustainable Corridor Development Plan for the Mat-Su Borough.

WHEREAS, On January 17th, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, the bill that funds much of the federal government for fiscal year 2014 activities including a \$600 million authorization for National Infrastructure Investments, referred to by the U.S. Department of Transportation as TIGER Discretionary Grants; and

WHEREAS, the federal fiscal year 2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant funds set aside \$35 million for planning for projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is eligible for funds under the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the TIGER program allows project sponsors at the State and local level to fund multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects; and

WHEREAS, the need exists to make improvements to the existing Palmer-Wasilla Highway, an arterial road, serving residents of the Borough core area connecting the City of Palmer and the City of Wasilla and travelers between the Glenn Highway and the Parks Highway; and

WHEREAS, the Palmer-Wasilla Highway is a critical arterial in the fastest growing area of Alaska with significant capacity, safety and multi-modal challenges where an integrated land use-transportation connection is crucial to solutions, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the major road improvements needed to safely carry increasing motor vehicle trips, the regional governments in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough wish to create a Corridor Plan to support walkability, livable neighborhoods, and both economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability along the Palmer-Wasilla Highway corridor and other transportation corridors within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough wishes to submit applications for funding to undertake a Palmer-Wasilla Highway Corridor Plan and a Sustainable Corridor Development Plan for other transportation corridors within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Corridor Plans will look at what overall transportation improvements are needed to reduce traffic congestion and crashes, explore opportunities for connecting adjacent roads, provide alternatives for the routing of school buses and improve sub-regional accessibility while maintaining or improving local circulation and access to corridor businesses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Corridor Plans will address the issues of resolving traffic problems along the corridor, concerns with student transportation safety, opportunities for integrating land use development with appropriate transportation investments, addressing documented transportation safety issues along the road corridor, improving operations at key locations of significant trip generation, creating a safer multi-modal transportation corridor, accommodating the needs of public transit, environmental issues including noise concerns, and accommodating the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Wasilla City Council that it supports the Matanuska-Susitna Borough applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding for the Palmer-Wasilla Highway Corridor Plan and a Sustainable Corridor Development Plan for other transportation corridors in the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Wasilla City Council, that it supports a collaborative effort by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla, and the City of Houston to undertake corridor planning throughout the Borough and to seek additional grant funding sources for the corridor planning.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on March 24, 2014.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

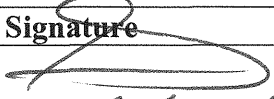



CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT


Resolution Serial No. 14-11: Supporting the Matanuska-Susitna Borough grant applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program for funding the Palmer-Wasilla Highway Corridor Plan and a Sustainable Corridor Development Plan for the Mat-Su Borough.

Originator: Public Works Director

Date: March 10, 2014

Agenda of: March 24, 2014

Route to:	Department Head	Signature	Date
X	Public Works Director		3/10/14
X	Finance Director		3/12/14
X	Deputy Administrator		3/12/14
X	City Clerk		3/12/14

Reviewed by Mayor Verne E. Rupright: 

Fiscal Impact: no

Account name/number:

Attachments: none

Summary Statement: This resolution supports two grant applications the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is preparing for the TIGER program through U.S. Department of Transportation funding of a Corridor Plan along the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and for a Sustainable Corridor Development Plan for the Mat-Su Borough. The purpose of the corridor planning is to address:

- Traffic problems along the corridor(s)
- Concerns with student transportation safety
- Opportunities for integrating land use development with transportation investments
- Documented transportation safety issues along the road corridor(s)
- Improving operations at key locations of significant trip generation
- Creating a safer multi-modal transportation corridor including off-road vehicles
- Accommodating the needs of public transit
- Environmental issues including noise concerns
- Accommodating the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized users

These grant requests are a result of a week-long regional workshop on transportation planning that occurred on January 20 - 24, 2014 sponsored by the Borough. As a follow-up, participants

representing the Borough, ADOT and the cities met on February 28, 2014 to create an action plan based on the discussions that occurred during the January workshop.

The development of a corridor plan for the Palmer-Wasilla Highway was identified as an important goal by all the participants at the February 28, 2014 meeting. The group agreed to seek multi-jurisdictional support for an application for grant funding for this project from the TIGER Discretionary Program.

In addition to the Palmer-Wasilla Highway corridor, a regional sustainable corridor development plan is needed for the Mat-Su Borough. The Borough is preparing to apply for an individual corridor planning grant for the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, and a regional corridor planning grant through the TIGER Sustainable Corridor Development program. This resolution supports these efforts in addition to seeking other grant funding sources for the corridor planning.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution Serial No. 14-11.