

Sponsored by: Assemblymember Bettine
Amended: 12/11/07
Adopted: 12/11/07

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 07-139 (AM)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REGARDING ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD'S (STB) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF THE ALASKA RAILROAD EXTENSION TO PORT MACKENZIE.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are working cooperatively to study and construct a rail extension from the existing Alaska Railroad mainline to Port MacKenzie; and

WHEREAS, the work has been completed on the preliminary engineering and environmental analysis of the proposed rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, preliminary meetings and open houses have taken place to inform the public of the proposed rail line extension and to obtain comments; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has had limited time to consider the preliminary public and agency comments received to date as well as the results of the preliminary engineering and environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has conducted a work session on the proposed project to become more fully informed of the engineering and environmental issues related to the proposed project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough believes the results of the preliminary reports and agency comments are incomplete and should be studied and reviewed during

the Surface Transportation Board (STB) process to a fuller extent;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the following social, economic, engineering, and environmental issues be more fully explored during the STB's environmental impact statement process. These issues being:

- The potential effects of the Castle Mountain fault, and other faults, on the proposed rail line.
- The potential effects of the rail line on drainage, particularly the drainage associated with the Big Lake watershed and Little Susitna River.
- The potential effects of future population growth, through the year 2025, on the proposed corridors and rail use along the proposed corridors for the communities of Willow, Houston, Knik-Goose Bay, Point MacKenzie, Big Lake Community Council area, and the Borough as a whole.
- The potential effects of future road and trail construction, through the year 2025, on the proposed corridors.
- The potential effects of noise and vibration generated by rail use along the proposed corridors on existing and future development.
- The potential effects of rail line use, along any of the proposed corridors, on future community development, with special attention to residential housing, commercial development, and other economic opportunities.
- The potential effects of the rail line on agriculture, recreation, and fish and wildlife along the proposed corridors.
- Preparation of future population estimates for both 20 year and 40 year time horizons and review of related impacts.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 11 day
of December, 2007.

/S/

CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Houston, Church, Kvalheim, Bettine, and
Wells