

By:	A. Strawn
Introduced:	July 20, 2026
Public Hearing:	August 3, 2026
Action:	Approved

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 26-14**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF AREAWIDE ROAD POWERS TO ACQUIRE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT ROADS, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND RELATED DRAINAGE FACILITIES AND PLACING THE QUESTION BEFORE QUALIFIED AREAWIDE VOTERS.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is experiencing continued growth and development, creating increasing demand for a safe, connected, and efficient transportation network that serves residents, businesses, emergency responders, and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the Borough-wide Comprehensive plan is to develop an integrated surface transportation network that facilitates the efficient movement of people, goods, and services throughout the Borough and region; and

WHEREAS, early right-of-way acquisition allows the Borough to identify, secure, and preserve land needed for future transportation corridors before development occurs, supporting long-term transportation planning and helping ensure that future transportation corridors remain viable; and

WHEREAS, preserving right-of-way in advance can reduce future public infrastructure costs by avoiding the need to purchase developed properties, move driveways, buildings, wells, septic systems, or

utilities, or redesign and reroute road projects after development has occurred; and

WHEREAS, areawide road powers would facilitate and strengthen the Borough's ability to provide local match to state or federally funded projects within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, providing local match and project design increases competitiveness for discretionary grants, potentially unlocking vital external funding for infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, areawide road powers would provide the Borough with greater flexibility to plan, fund, design, and construct transportation corridors, bridges, intersections, traffic safety improvements, active transportation facilities, and drainage improvements associated with transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, use of areawide authority for right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction would help implement adopted transportation plans, improve connectivity, enhance public safety, reduce long-term project costs, and shorten future project delivery timelines; and

WHEREAS, Road Service Areas will continue to perform their established role in maintaining the Borough's transportation network and continue developing needed improvement projects within their areas, while areawide authority would provide an additional tool to address transportation needs that cross service area boundaries or affect the Borough as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission supports placing before the qualified areawide voters of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough the question of whether the Borough should adopt areawide powers to acquire public rights-of-way, design, and construct roads, streets, sidewalks, and related drainage facilities.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 3rd day of August, 2026.



RICHARD ALLEN, Chair

ATTEST



LACIE OLIVIERI, PLANNING CLERK

(SEAL)



YES: McCabe, Glenn, Scoggin, Fonov, Carpenter, Allen

NO: None