

HANDOUT

NLCC Comments: Resolution 26-17

From Rod Hanson <rod@nlakes.cc>

Date Fri 8/14/2026 11:02 AM

To MSB Planning Commission <MSB.Planning.Commission@matsugov.us>

Cc North Lakes Community Council (board@nlakes.cc) <board@nlakes.cc>

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The North Lakes Community Council opposes Resolution 26-17, which recommends the approval of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's (MSB) priority transportation projects for inclusion in the MVP 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We urge you not to pass this resolution.

If the MSB Assembly moves forward with this action, it may introduce last-minute changes to the Municipal Transportation Plan (MTP) and the related TIP. The MTP and TIP were developed through a process that emphasized integrity, transparency, and public participation, with representation from MSB, all cities, tribes, and state officials. Although the MSB is the largest stakeholder and primary beneficiary, it does not hold sole decision-making authority over the final MTP and TIP. That responsibility rests with the Steering Committee of the Mat-Su Valley Transportation Planning (MVP) Organization.

Throughout this process, each member of the MVP Technical Committee, including the MSB, was expected to advocate for their organization's priorities. The MTP was shaped by months of collaboration, resulting in a prioritized project list that reflected broad agreement—even if not every party received everything they wanted. The process was transparent, included multiple review stages, and provided meaningful opportunities for public input from individuals and community councils.

North Lakes Community Council formally nominated several projects for MVP's consideration. We appreciate that our input was taken seriously, and we participated in multiple meetings of the MVP Technical Committee. MVP appropriately evaluated all projects, employed a fair and impartial scoring system, and ultimately used its judgment to develop a balanced list of projects. While few of our initial nominations were selected, we are satisfied with the outcome.

We are especially concerned about the potential elimination or delay of one of our high-priority safety projects: pathway and road improvements at Finger Lake Elementary School. This project is not just about constructing a pathway; it includes a critical 0.15-mile extension of Fir Street to the school property, which would provide a safer and more direct connection for students and significantly reduce congestion at the Earl / Bogard intersection. This intersection was flagged as a community concern and discussed in the Bogard-Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP). The CAMP recommended creating a loop through the school property to Fir Street and ultimately to the Cottonwood Loop/Bogard intersection, identified as a key location for a future roundabout. This project received one of the highest scores in the MVP evaluation and should remain on the short-term priority list.

When adopting the Bogard-Seldon CAMP, MSB staff noted the importance of making difficult choices to remain aligned with established strategies and goals. Upholding the MVP process in this case

requires that same commitment. Making last-minute changes undermines the collaborative work and careful planning already completed.

We respectfully request that you honor the integrity of the MVP process and adhere to the plan as presented.

Sincerely,

Rod Hanson / North Lakes Community Council