

AK 99-149

**CLERK'S OFFICE**

**APPROVED**

Date: 6-8-99

Submitted by: Assemblymember FAIRCLOUGH, Taylor,  
Tesche, Von Gemmingen, Kendall, Meyer  
Prepared by: Assembly Office  
For reading: June 8, 1999

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**AR NO. 99- 149**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY URGING THE  
ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION TO INCLUDE THE DESIGN AND  
CONSTRUCTION OF GRADE-SEPARATED RAILROAD CROSSINGS, ESPECIALLY  
AT THE BIRCHWOOD CROSSING, AND TO INCORPORATE THE COSTS, AS PART  
OF THE ANCHORAGE - WASILLA TRACK REALIGNMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is planning to begin work to straighten approximately 41 curves in the railroad tracks between Anchorage and Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has shown support for this track realignment project by recently approving a sole source land purchase to the ARRC to help facilitate the project; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimate for the track realignment project is between \$9 million and \$11 million, and will be funded under a \$22 million federal grant to Alaska contained in a 1997 Amtrak appropriation; and

WHEREAS, this track realignment will increase the speed of passenger and freight trains from an average 31 mph to over 50 mph; and

WHEREAS, residents - especially in the Eagle River/Chugiak/Birchwood areas - are concerned about the safety implications of high-speed trains traveling through residential areas, especially at local railroad crossings; and

WHEREAS, some of the largest undeveloped land parcels within the Municipality are located in the Eagle River/Chugiak/Birchwood areas and access to much of this land for future development will use the Birchwood railroad crossing; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly supports the construction of grade-separated railroad crossings between Anchorage and Wasilla, especially at the Birchwood crossing, given the following:

An intent of federal legislation (Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - TEA21) is to enhance the mobility and safety of passengers and freight on rail lines by constructing safe railroad crossings;

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4 The ARRC has stated that the safest railroad crossing is a grade-separated crossing;  
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7 The ARRC received \$22 million from Amtrak, specifically for roadbed and  
8 track improvements; and  
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10 It is more economical to include the design and construction of grade-separated crossings in the track realignment project and incorporate the  
11 costs now, than have to retrofit later and go through the AMATS process  
12 and compete with other projects for future funding.  
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15 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:  
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17 Section 1: That the Assembly urges the Alaska Railroad Corporation to  
18 include the design and construction of grade-separated railroad  
19 crossings, and to incorporate the costs now, as part of the  
20 Anchorage - Wasilla track realignment project.  
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22 Section 2 That high priority be given to constructing a grade-separated  
23 railroad crossing at the Birchwood crossing.  
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25 Section 3: That, upon passage and approval of this resolution, the Municipal  
26 Clerk forward a copy of the resolution to the ARRC Board of  
27 Directors, State Legislature, State Department of Transportation  
28 and Public Facilities, Alaska's federal delegation.  
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30 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this  
31 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1999.  
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34 Vic Chair JL  
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37 ATTEST:  
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40 Janet Johnson  
41 Municipal Clerk  
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Municipality of Anchorage  
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE  
AGENDA DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

AR 99-149

<b>1</b>	<b>SUBJECT OF AGENDA DOCUMENT</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED</b> 6-3-99
	Grade-Separated Crossings - Anchorage-Wasilla Track Realignment Project	<b>INDICATE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED</b> AR
<b>2</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT NAME</b> Assembly	<b>DIRECTOR'S NAME</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>THE PERSON THE DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY PREPARED BY</b>	<b>HIS/HER PHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>COORDINATED WITH AND REVIEWED BY</b>	<b>INITIALS</b>
	Mayor	
	Municipal Clerk	
	Municipal Attorney	
	Employee Relations Director	
	Municipal Manager	
	Finance	
	Community Development and Planning	
	Property and Facility Management	
	Management Information Systems	
	Office of Management and Budget	
	Purchasing	
	Operations Manager	
	Cultural and Recreational Services	
	Fire	
	Health and Human Services	
	Police	
	Public Works	
	Transit	
	Merrill Field (Airport)	
	Municipal Light and Power	
	Anchorage Water and Wastewater	
	Port	
	Solid Waste Services	
<b>5</b>	<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS</b> Addendum item  For Action	
<b>6</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY MEETING DATE</b> 6-8-99	<b>7</b> <b>PUBLIC HEARING DATE REQUESTED</b> —

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RECEIVED  
Office of Municipal Clerk  
JUN 4 1999  
P.O. Box 198650  
Anchorage, AK 99519-8650