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CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: ////03

Tesche, Whittle
Submitted by: Assemblymembers VON
GEMMINGEN, SHAMBERG, Taylor, Tremaine
Prepared by: Department of Assembly
For reading: November 18, 2003

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA AR NO. 2003-348

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING TRANSIT, TRAILS, AND SIDEWALKS

WHEREAS, the nation's transportation law, TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century), will be reauthorized in early 2004; and

WHEREAS, TEA-21 sets funding levels for roads, transit, trails, sidewalks, and community revitalization projects; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Senators and Congressman can greatly influence Federal transportation law and funding levels due to their collective seniority and committee assignments; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage has benefited for the last twelve years from TEA-21 and its predecessor ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act); and

WHEREAS, residents of Anchorage are benefiting from newly constructed roads, trails, sidewalks, and roadside landscaping; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State transportation law have increased local control over transportation decisions over the last twelve years; and

WHEREAS, local government is best suited to allocate resources among roads, transit, trails, and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, in Anchorage, transit service has fallen greatly behind public demand over the last twenty years, and we need to connect sidewalks and pathways for public safety and health; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage has begun to use Federal congestion and air quality funds to add new transit service; and

WHEREAS, some members of Congress are seeking to limit local control over Federal transportation dollars through the appropriations process, and to eliminate the ten percent set aside for trails, sidewalks, and community revitalization investments.

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ATTEST:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:

Section 1: That this body thanks Congressman Don Young for his support of transit and trails in the U.S. House TEA-21 reauthorization process and through the annual appropriations process and requests that Congress:

- 1. maintain TEA-21's existing structure and increase funding for transit including the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program;
- 2. ensure continuation of the ten percent set aside for trails, sidewalks and community revitalization investments; and
- improve local control over transportation spending by eliminating the threeyear restriction on using congestion and air quality funds to operate and maintain highway and transit programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 18th day of November, 2003.

Chair

Municipal Clerk

