

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-02**

**A RESOLUTION REQUIRING COORDINATION BETWEEN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES DURING THE EARLY PLANNING, DESIGN, AND BUDGETING PHASES OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.**

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WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, the Assembly, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and municipal departments; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of motorists collide with moose and other large wild animals annually in the Municipality, resulting in personal property damage, injuries, and occasional fatalities; and

WHEREAS, 100–200 moose are killed in motor vehicle collisions in the Municipality every year; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) and the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) are responsible for planning and apportioning funding for many of the roads in the Municipality through the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Official Streets and Highways Plan, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, long-range transportation planning practices currently result in (1) project cost estimates that do not include adequate wildlife mitigation or wildlife-related public safety measures and (2) delaying coordination to late in the design phase, which limits the type and number of feasible and prudent solutions, often resulting in inadequate mitigation; and

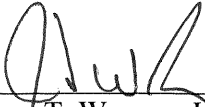
WHEREAS, wildlife mitigation measures that prove effective in rural locations have not been assessed and may not be effective in urban and suburban environments; for example, (1) barrier fences along urban and suburban roads are permeable to moose because of numerous gaps that allow for cross-traffic, which funnel moose into intersections and may temporarily trap them inside the road corridor; and (2) fences tend to separate moose cows from their calves, which increases risk to bystanders and motorists from highly agitated large animals running in unpredictable directions; and

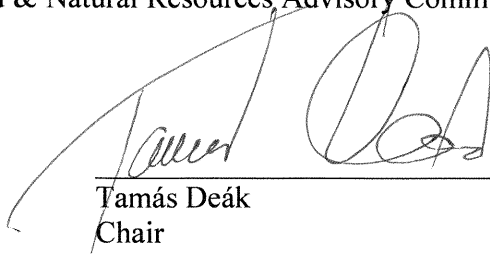
WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is responsible for managing wildlife and human-wildlife encounters in the Municipality but has never been included as a stakeholder in AMATS or ADOT&PF long-range transportation planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission recommends:

1. Early coordination be required with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on long-range transportation plans and road design, and
2. ADF&G be represented on the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee to facilitate consideration of wildlife mitigation and safety measures during the early planning, design, and budgeting phases of transportation projects in the Municipality.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 27th day of November, 2013.

  
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Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.  
Secretary

  
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Tamás Deák  
Chair