

November 17, 2006

Mr. Heinrich Springer, Executive Director  
Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority  
State of Alaska Department of Transportation  
And Public Facilities  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1850  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Ms. Edrie Vinson  
Environmental Project Manager  
Alaska Division Office, FHWA  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, Alaska, 99802

**Subject: Comments on the Knik Arm Crossing Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, dated August 30, 2006**

Dear Mr. Springer and Ms. Vinson:

The Municipality of Anchorage appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Knik Arm Crossing. The proposed project is a significant transportation facility and would have a dramatic impact on Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, with a combined population of more than 350,000 residents.

The Municipality has been working diligently for several years to try to make this project successful. I have chaired a high-level group of the principals of affected agencies. We have organized, conducted and participated in numerous meetings of stake-holders and neighborhood groups. We have devoted hundreds of hours of staff time working with these groups and government agencies.

In brief, we find the alternatives presented in the DEIS to be unacceptable. Each of the three presented alternatives has serious flaws. The “no build” alternative is unacceptable because this region does need to augment the Glenn Highway with another connection to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The “Degan” and “Erickson” alternatives cause numerous, serious, unmitigated impacts on Anchorage neighborhoods businesses and residents. All three alternatives should be rejected by FHWA and the project sponsor should be directed to address these serious flaws before a Record of Decision for this project is issued.

Our comments are organized as follows: in addition to this introductory letter, we have attached a summary of our primary issues, specific comments on the technical reports and appendices and chapter by chapter comments referenced to the DEIS text.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
Mayor