FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 13

A RESOLUTION CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE ALASKA/RICHARDSON/STEese HIGHWAY ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ROUTE FOR HAULING ORE FROM THE MANH CHO H MINE TO THE FORT KNOX MILL

WHEREAS, Fairbanks has its roots in mining since Felix Pedro staked the Discovery Claim on what is now Pedro Creek in 1902; and

WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough supports the plan to develop the Kinross Gold/Contango Manh Choh Mine project near Tetlin, Alaska which will continue the historic tradition of mining gold in the Interior; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has recently amended his budget to propose more than $50 million to begin the multi-year update to bridges along the Richardson and Steese Highways; and

WHEREAS, The letter dated February 11, 2022 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) expressed deep concerns of the analytical work yet to be done with no formal reply for the ACOE; and

WHEREAS, As a second class borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough recognizes that it does not have legal authority or jurisdiction in this matter and can only act in an advisory capacity; and

WHEREAS, A local Alaskan trucking company has taken additional safety measures that will include all disc brakes that reduce stopping distance by as much as 30%. Furthermore, only highly qualified drivers experienced in operating in snow and ice will be hired. Additional training on the planned route will also take place; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has launched an independent 22-member technical committee and selected Kinney...
Engineering to conduct an analysis of the Richardson corridor because of the concern in our community about impacts upon road, traffic and safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough continues to monitor the Technical Advisory Committee regarding the proposed transportation route for hauling ore from the Manh Choh Mine to the Fort Knox Mill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly encourages Kinross/Contango to pursue long term alternatives to ore hauling such as a mill located near the mine or a rail extension into eastern interior Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the ore haul plan proceed, trucking should be done with the greatest safety culture possible to minimize the safety risks on our public highways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly directs the Clerk to distribute a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska Interior Delegation, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.


________________________________
April Trickey, MMC, Borough Clerk
by Adena Benn, CMC, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Aaron Lojewski
Presiding Officer

Yeses: Haney, Rotermund, Wilson, Lojewski, Cash
Noes: Guttenberg, Fletcher, O’Neall, Kelly