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JUN 28 2004

JENSEN FORBALOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. |



May 28, 2004
P. O. Box 827
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Max Best, Director
Planning Department
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N. Binkley
Soldotna, AK 99669

Re: Sterling Highway Scenic Byway

Dear Max,

At our meeting on May 4, 2004 Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission addressed the issue of Scenic Byway status for the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway from Skilak Lake road to Anchor Point. A motion in support of the designation was made and, after discussion, approved unanimously.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Collins".

Joanne Collins, Chair
Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission

unincorporated areas of the borough. Ms. Casey commented that adding land use regulation to the highway corridor would have to go through the usual process required for such regulations.

Commissioner Hohl asked if the scenic byway designation went through city limits. Ms. Casey replied yes.

Commissioner Hohl inquired about the effectiveness of the partnership group once the designation is obtained. Ms. Casey replied it was as effective as the group desired. She understood the Seward group was mostly inactive at this time. The highway is still a byway and is still receiving the promotional opportunities.

Commissioner Isham said he attended one of the meetings. He was told there were "no strings" attached to the grant money or designation. He learned the moratorium on billboards stopped at city limits so it did not affect billboards already in place within the city limits.

Commissioner Hohl asked how far off the right-of-way the grant funds could be used. Ms. Casey understood the corridor partnership plan could include offshoots from the highway, such as the loop from Kenai Spur Highway/Bridge Access/Kalifornsky Beach Road or Skilak Lake Road. If these roads are discussed within the plan as secondary offshoots, she thought this would help justify projects within these areas. It would probably be easier to get grant funding along the main corridor, but it was not unheard of for tertiary areas to be included.

Commissioner Troeger inquired about the time line for a response from the borough. He understood Ms. Casey needed a letter soon. Ms. Casey wanted to get the submittal to the state commissioner the first part of June.

Commissioner Hohl inquired about the recommendation for how often the partnership plans were updated. Ms. Casey did not know.

MOTION: Commissioner Isham moved, seconded by Commissioner Hohl, for the planning commission to recommend to the assembly a resolution in the form of a support letter naming the Sterling Highway a scenic byway.

Commissioner Troeger suggested the commission mention the short time frame so the submittal can be provided to the state in a timely manner. Chairman Bryson asked if a letter from the assembly had already been prepared and would be forwarded to the commission for comments. Mr. Ostrander did not think a letter had been written yet; however, it would need to be prepared soon since the next assembly meeting was May 18.

VOTE: The motion passed by unanimous consent.

BRYSON YES	CLARK YES	FOSTER YES	GROSS YES	HOHL YES	HUTCHINSON ABSENT	ISHAM YES
JOHNSON YES	MARTIN YES	MASSION YES	PETERSEN YES	TAURIAINEN ABSENT	TROEGER YES	11 YES 2 ABSENT

AGENDA ITEM D. PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATIONS/COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Bryson called for comments for items not on the agenda. No requests to speak were heard.

AGENDA ITEM E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

AGENDA ITEM F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Vacate Sunbonnet Drive and associated public utility easements, dedicated by Strawberry Ridge Unit 1 (Plat HM 77-6); within Section 1, Township 6 South, Range 14 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska; and within the Kenai Peninsula Borough; KPB File 2004-083

Staff report as reviewed by Mary Toll.

PC Meeting 5/10/2004

Purpose as stated in petition: Sunbonnet Drive right-of-way (Plat HM 77-06) straddles a steep-sided, deep ravine. Alternative, adequate and more easily built access to the proposed subdivision and the unsubdivided remainder is provided via Berry Pail Drive (Plat HM 86-79). Other properties fronting Sunbonnet Drive (Lot 1 Strawberry Ridge Unit 1 and Lot 2B Strawberry Ridge Unit 2) also have frontage along, and access from, Diamond Ridge Road.

June 24, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

Birch Ridge Golf Course of Soldotna, Alaska supports the designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. We feel that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation for its exceptional recreational and scenic qualities.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successfully managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, golf, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for

grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Cowan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patrick Cowan, Owner
Birch Ridge Golf Course
42223 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-5270

May 28, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2004

JENSEN YORBA LOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. |

Dear Commissioner Barton:

We, the owners of Pioneer Village and Alaska River Adventures in Cooper Landing, support the designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

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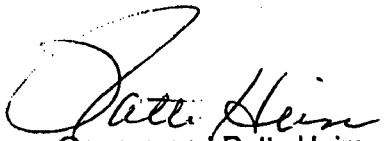
The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

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We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



George and Patty Heim
Pioneer Village
Alaska River Adventures
P.O. Box 638
Cooper Landing, AK 99572
907-599-2000

6/25/04

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2004
JENSEN YOREA LOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. |

Dear Commissioner Barton:

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We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Marion Nelson
Kenai Peninsula Advertising Rep and Field Editor
The Milepost
P.O. Box 1535
Kenai AK, 99611
(907) 283-4632
mmkn@ptialaska.net

P.S. As the Peninsula Milepost Representative, I am very familiar with many, many of the side roads and certainly the highways of the area. Completing the middle 81 miles of the Sterling Hwy Scenic designation just makes sense and it is certainly worthy of the title. I hope you will be able to implement this in a timely manner as it will benefit the main corridor and the other area highways.