

Introduced by: McGahan
Date: Apr. 5, 1983
Vote: Unanimous
Action: Adopted

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 83-77

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA AND THE THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REDESIGN TO MODERN STANDARDS AND THE REPLACEMENT TO MODERN STANDARDS OF BRIDGES AND CULVERTS AND PROVIDING OTHER ROAD REDESIGN AND REPAIR ON THE WILLIAMSPORT - PILE BAY ROAD.

WHEREAS, construction of the Williamsport to Pile Bay Road was commenced in 1932 and was completed in 1937 linking Williamsport, located at the end of Illiamna Bay in the Cook Inlet within the Kenai Peninsula Borough with Pile Bay Village in Pile Bay on Lake Illiamna within an unincorporated area of South Central Alaska as shown on Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the territorial Alaska Road Commission and Bureau of Public Works provided periodic maintenance and upgrading during territorial days; and

WHEREAS, Alaska fishermen began hauling fishing boats across this road in 1938 to launch them in Lake Illiamna for floating down the Kuichak River in route to Bristol Bay to avoid the dangerous 1,500 mile voyage around the Aleutian Chain; and

WHEREAS, this road system has continued to serve as a means of portaging fishing boats through the years with 68 commercial vessels passing over it in 1980 and 41 in 1982; and

WHEREAS, this road is used to haul thousands of gallons of fuel to fishermen, local people, and air strips as well as for transporting propane, lumber and other freight for persons living in the area; and

WHEREAS, maintenance and repair has been virtually non-existent since Statehood notwithstanding some limited maintenance attempts during recent years; and

WHEREAS, bridges have washed away, culverts have plugged and washed away, and sections of the mountain road are steep and dangerous with 800-foot cliffs and 90 degree curves; and

WHEREAS, the covered bridge constructed over the Illiamna River in 1938 limits passage of freight or commercial fishing vessels to 12 feet overall width and 11 feet 6 inches overall height; and

WHEREAS, the road is a creature of the 1930s which must be adapted to the 1980s;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:


Section 1. That the Assembly urges the Governor and the Thirteenth Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to provide for proper engineering and design and for replacing and repairing to modern construction standards the existing and the damaged bridges and culverts and to reconstruct the roadbed to modern construction standards and to provide for realistic maintenance on the Williamsport - Pile Bay Road System.

Section 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk is directed to distribute copies of this resolution to Governor William J. Sheffield, to Senators Don Gilman and Paul Fischer, to Representatives Hugh Malone, Bette Cato, Milo Fritz, and Vern Hurlbert.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ON THIS 5th DAY OF April, 1983.


Donald L. McCloud, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Borough Clerk
