

AGENDA ITEM M.4.
Lands

RECEIVED

Biggs, Sherry

From: Lois Ulich [wlulich@worldnet.att.net] 2005 JUN -6 AM 11: 07
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 2:12 AM
To: sbiggs@borough.kenai.ak.us
Cc: chay@alaska.com; bfg@alaska.net; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; merkes2@yahoo.com; rlms@ptialaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; cmos@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net
Subject: Funny River area bridge

KPB
CLERK'S OFFICE

As permanent residents of the Funny River area and long time property owners, we strongly oppose the proposed bridge crossing of the Kenai River in this area. This bridge will have a very negative effect on our quality of life and why we live here. It will be also be detrimental to the Kenai River and Refuge land in this area. Further, the proposed location provides little benefit to the community. Funny River Road will still remain the better route to Soldotna--a bridge, a Shorter route to Anchorage.

Bill and Lois Ulich
35740 King Salmon Ave
Soldotna, AK 99669

6/6/2005

Biggs, Sherry

From: gerfsinwa@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 9:36 AM
To: dale.bagley@borough.kenai.ak.us
Cc: eoberts@borough.kenai.ak.us; bdove@borough.kenai.ak.us; rkwallak@yahoo.com; joan@bandhpcas.com; stiles@ptialaska.net; chay@alaska.com; bjg@alaska.net; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; rims@ptialaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; cmos@xyz.net; sbiggs@borough.kenai.ak.us; reloop@alaska.net; paulsen426@att.net; prussian@alaska.net; alaskadaugherty@hotmail.com; carter-ak-az@worldnet.att.net; avtech@alaska.net; bopet@ak.net; silverb@alaska.net
Subject: Resolution 2005-004 Funny River Bridge

Mayor Bagley,

It is with great concern that I have just received information regarding this proposal to build the Funny River Bridge adjacent to our property located at 35050 Betty Lou Drive (Corner of Huskie & Betty Lou Drive). We are vehemently opposed to this resolution and would like this document entered as such. (Hard copy letter to be mailed).

My wife Amy and I bought this property in fall of 2002 with the purpose of providing a beautiful retirement setting, with a business plan to help support. We have improved our property (building a 24' X 24' garage, putting a concrete foundation under the cabin, among other improvements) and have been taxed accordingly. Our long term plan was to set up a Lodge with all amenities to help support our retirement.

Now it appears our retirement home and business plans will be taken from us through condemnation, this proposed bridge would greatly impact our lives.

From a economical viewpoint this resolution raises several concerns:

1. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) expired - estimated cost to perform a new one is several million dollars. (Fact Sheet Dated, Nov. 24th, 2004)
2. Improvements to Huskie & Spring Street Roads on both sides of the Kenai River. No solid facts to support \$\$ amount available.
3. Cost to acquire properties affected by the bridge through condemnation and Eminent Domain. (Would be interested in seeing an estimate on this costs - please provide an estimate if possible prior to any passing of this project through the Borough).
4. Affects to peoples lives - can you put a price tag on this??

We realize this bridge will have an impact on thousands of people, but perhaps none greater than us. Please take this into consideration and place this document on record. Attached is the platte of our property (hard copy mailing only due to large number of recipients on distribution of this email).

Sincerely,

Gary & Amy Gerfen
<http://www.awesomealaskaadventures.com>
 (907) 260-3162
 (425) 822-3424

6/7/2005

AGENDA ITEM M.4

Biggs, Sherry

From: Bouchers [e.j.boucher@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 12:26 PM
To: gsuperman@gci.net; chay@alaska.com; bjg@alaska.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; rlm@ptialaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; merkes2@yahoo.com; cmos@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net; dalebagley@borough.kenai.ak.us; sbiggs@borough.kenai.ak.us
Subject: Funny River Bridge (Resolution 2005-044)

We are residents of the Funny River area would like to voice our opposition to this resolution. This project has been around for many years and still has not met the criteria to earn the necessary points to place it high enough on the STIP for build consideration. Additionally, the 1998 FHWA conditional Record of Decision on this proposed project, stated that:

"Mitigation Plan:

A mitigation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be developed between the concerned government agencies and the ADOT&PF before permitting. The goals of the MOA will include no loss of wetland function (or enhancement where wetland function has been diminished by previous road crossings) and no loss of Kenai River habitat value.

Secondary Impacts:

Before permitting, a strategy will be developed and fully implemented in collaboration with all interested parties in the Kenai River watershed that will:

- identify the likely area of impact to wetlands, and other aspects of the Kenai River watershed, due to growth induced by the bridge;*
- identify the ecological functions of the Kenai River, its tributaries and wetlands in the agreed upon area of project impact;*
- identify measures to conserve ecological functions in the above aquatic ecosystem units, in light of development pressure;*
- identify practical means to implement the above measures to conserve ecological functions; and*
- identify the government agencies that will implement the above measures to conserve ecological functions."*

All government agencies, including the KPB Mayor's office, signed an MOA agreeing to these requirements. To date, no forward progress has been made in this area to even get the project to the permitting stage. It's a given that environmental issues change depending on which political party is in the White House; however, this project would still fall under the National Environmental Protection Act. Obviously, the governmental agencies involved in this project are concerned with the impact this project would have on this area of the River. With the Kenai River-based economy, we should all be concerned. We have the Funny River and the Killey Rivers which are prime king salmon spawning area. And, of course, the importance of the wetlands to keep the river clean. There have been several attempts to get the people in Funny River involved in a process to develop a land use plan but to no avail. Additionally, the KPB would have to take the lead in enforcing this plan if it were in place.

This is one of those projects, that AKDOT has spent endless hours on and there is no relief for them on the horizon. The costs continue to escalate. More houses have been built on the Sterling side of the River in the area of the proposed project which will add to the project cost if eminent domain is imposed. The \$5M won't go very far in moving this project. There has already been too much money thrown into this "black hole" with nothing to show for it.

In summary, as we see it, there are three reasons why this should be left at State-level; (1) You are already looking at ways to generate more revenue for the Borough, is this your first choice of where to spend \$625,000 and before the project is completed much more than that; (2) the project does not merit the points to move it up on the STIP; and (3) it can't be built without a permit. You will continue to hear from a vocal minority who want this bridge built; but we believe that since Funny River Road was paved in 1999 the support for a bridge has waned. We would like this project abandoned altogether; however, we know that will never happen.

Please enter this into the public record.

Thank you,

Earl & Beth Boucher
35660 Silver Salmon Ave
Soldotna AK 99669