

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 23-086**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO PURSUE A FEDERAL GRANT AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO UTILIZE THE PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION (PMRE) CORRIDOR FOR MULTI-MODAL USE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Port Mackenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) project was envisioned to establish a rail link between Port MacKenzie and the Alaska Railroad, providing Port MacKenzie customers cost-effective rail transportation between the Port and Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS, PMRE project is to construct and operate a rail extension and associated facilities from the Port MacKenzie District to a point on the existing Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) main line near Houston, Alaska. The total distance of the proposed alignment is 32 miles; and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie is situated on nearly 9,000 acres of land and has existing dockside bulk materials loading capacity. The dredge-free draft of the port is more than 60 feet, providing the ability to load nearly any sized vessel, and is the closest deep-water port to Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS, PMRE received approximately \$184 million in State Legislative grant funding to design, permit, and construct the rail corridor. Segments 3, 4, and 5 are constructed between

Ayrshire Road in the Point MacKenzie area and Miller's Reach Road in Houston. These segments total 18 miles of rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$200 million is estimated to be required to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, the project has not seen significant construction activity since 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to realize public benefit for the \$184 million invested in taxpayer funding; and

WHEREAS, an 18-mile road between the Point MacKenzie area and Houston would create access to property and development in areas currently not readily accessed by road; and

WHEREAS, there may be other multi-modal uses for the PMRE corridor for recreational access, pedestrian traffic, and winter use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly approves the Manager to pursue Federal grant opportunities and State assistance to utilize the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension corridor for multi-modal transportation.


ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 18 day
of July, 2023.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Fonov, and
Bernier