

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 26-008**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING A BUILD GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BURMA ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT AND REQUESTING ITS NOMINATION FOR THE ALASKA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP).

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Borough") seeks to plan, engineer, and design improvements to the Burma Road corridor between Ayrshire Avenue and Susitna Parkway to address existing safety, geometric, and operational deficiencies and to prepare for projected travel demand; and

WHEREAS, Burma Road is currently narrow, unpaved, and constrained by deficient geometry that reduces safety and operational efficiency for public, school, emergency and freight movement, creating year-round access and maintenance challenges; and

WHEREAS, improving the Burma Road corridor is already necessary to correct existing deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, regional development—including West Susitna access activities, Port MacKenzie operations, and anticipated energy and resource-sector initiatives such as a potential Susitna River crossing or Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline—will significantly increase traffic and freight demand along the corridor, intensifying the need for improvements that support safety, mobility, and reliability; and

WHEREAS, the Burma Road/Point MacKenzie/Susitna Parkway corridor is expected to serve as a primary route between west-side resource areas and Port MacKenzie, supporting long-term economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, improving the Burma Road corridor provides independent utility and long-term benefit regardless of the schedule or outcome of larger regional projects by remedying existing deficiencies and enhancing public and freight operations; and

WHEREAS, the project advances key federal discretionary grant merit criteria by:

- Improving safety through design to current standards, geometric corrections, access management, drainage and surface upgrades, and winter-operations reliability;

- Enhancing quality of life and community connectivity through dependable year-round access for residents, school transportation, emergency response, and freight;

- Strengthening economic competitiveness by improving a freight linkage between resource areas and Port MacKenzie;

- Promoting environmental sustainability and resilience by addressing drainage, thaw-unstable subgrade, wildfire considerations, and lifecycle durability; and

- Supporting innovation and collaborative planning with state, tribal, port, and industry partners; and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to apply to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program for planning, engineering, and design, and may seek up to \$25 million consistent with BUILD planning-eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, the project area is designated rural and may be eligible for up to 100 percent federal share, though identification of non-federal participation may strengthen competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, advancing the project through planning and design will position subsequent phases (right-of-way, utilities, and construction) for future funding and inclusion in statewide programming, including the STIP; and

WHEREAS, broad coordination and documented support from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), tribal governments, emergency services, Port MacKenzie operators, freight and resource-sector users, and community organizations will strengthen the application and ensure responsiveness to stakeholder needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports and authorizes submission of a FY 2026 BUILD planning grant application for the Burma Road Corridor Project (Ayrshire Avenue to Susitna Parkway).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the project scope for the BUILD application may include, without limitation: corridor concept

development; alternatives analysis; traffic and freight analysis; road safety audit and safety performance assessment; survey and mapping; geotechnical investigation; hydrology and drainage analysis; preliminary engineering and 30-65% design to current standards; cost estimating; benefit-cost analysis (for future capital phases); environmental planning and resilience analysis; public involvement and tribal consultation; permitting pathway identification and NEPA readiness documentation; right-of-way needs analysis; utilities coordination; and grant management and reporting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Manager or designee (including the Public Works Director) is authorized to: (1) submit the application and all required forms; (2) execute related certifications and assurances; (3) coordinate with Alaska DOT&PF, tribal governments, Port MacKenzie, emergency services, and industry partners; (4) solicit and transmit letters of support; and (5) make non-substantive adjustments to the scope, schedule, budget narrative, and performance measures to conform with the final BUILD NOFO and USDOT guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution does not appropriate or commit Borough funds. Any Borough financial participation, match, or in-kind contribution, and any acceptance of a BUILD award, shall require separate Assembly action. Staff

time and consultant services necessary to prepare the application and coordinate stakeholders is authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests the Burma Road Corridor Improvement Project be nominated for inclusion in the Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to position the project for future right-of-way, utilities, and construction phases as funding becomes available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough affirms its commitment to public engagement, coordination with affected property owners, tribal consultation, environmental stewardship, and design practices that improve safety, equity, resilience, and lifecycle cost-effectiveness.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2026.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)