

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES EXPEDITE THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS ACCESSIBLE ROAD IN TIME FOR THE 2024 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES.

AGENDA OF:

Assembly Action: *Approved under the consent Agenda.
3/21/23 (SP)*

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To Department/Director	Signature	Comments
Department Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recoverable Signature <u>X</u> Lonnie McKechnie <small>Signed by: Lonnie McKechnie</small>	For Assemblymember Hale
Borough Attorney	<u>X</u> <i>NS</i>	
Borough Manager	<u>X</u> <i>WR</i>	
Borough Clerk	<u>X</u> <i>John 3/14/23</i>	

ATTACHMENT (S) : Fiscal Note: YES _____ NO X
 Resolution Serial No. 23-035 (2 pp)
 Skeetawk Letter Dated 02/12/23 (1 p)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This legislation is coming forward at the request of Assemblymember Hale to request that the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources expedite the leasing process for Skeetawk to build the bus accessible road for the alpine competitions in the 2024 Arctic Winter Games.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Respectfully request approval.



February 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Hale:

This year's Borough budget generously awarded Skeetawk Ski Area with \$600,000.00 for capital improvements, to include the construction of a public washroom facility and a bus accessible road to Skeetawk. The construction of the road is necessary for the Mat-Su Borough to successfully host the 2024 Arctic Winter Games, as competitors, coaches, and spectators will be bussed to Skeetawk's facility for alpine competitions.

While the public washroom facility is nearly completed, the process to approve the bus accessible road is encountering significant delay due to the leasing process of the Department of Natural Resources. Skeetawk's facility is located in the mountainous terrain of Hatcher Pass. Because of the terrain and environmental challenges of earthwork in the mountains, it is imperative to begin construction in early summer when the ground will be drier and the disturbance to the terrain from heavy equipment will be kept to a minimum. In order to achieve this goal, we must begin approaching contractors for bids by February at the latest to ensure the best contractors are secured before their schedules fill up with summer contracts.

To ensure this timeline, we submitted a lease request to DNR prior to November of 2022, and we still have not received any approvals or forward movement on the request. We have contacted DNR multiple times, and have not been successful in moving the request forward, despite our timely responses to any request for clarification they have submitted regarding our request. If DNR fails to approve this request in a timely manner, it is unlikely that construction will be completed in the summer of 2023, resulting in a lack of infrastructure to successfully host the 2024 Arctic Winter Games.

For these reasons, we are requesting the Assembly of the Mat-Su Borough to draft a resolution to DNR, in order to assist Skeetawk in securing the lease request necessary to complete this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Rob Wells
Hatcher Alpine Xperience dba Skeetawk
Board Chair

P.O. BOX 924 Palmer, AK 99645 - (907) 745-PASS - www.skeetawk.com

RS 23-035
DM 23-070