

Adopted: 05/18/21

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 21-045**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED STATE OF ALASKA GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND \$13.2 MILLION ALLOCATION FOR THE FAIRBANKS TO SEWARD MULTI-USE TRAIL ALSO KNOWN AS THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail is an initiative sponsored by a coalition of partners and led by Alaska Trails that seeks to establish a 500-mile trail from Seward to Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, supporting the Alaska Long Trail is consistent with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Land and Resource Management Division policy to provide for an integrated network of easements, rights-of-ways, and trails; and

WHEREAS, projects in the Bond Measure are "shovel ready", which means once funding is available, these trail building projects will provide much needed jobs for Alaskan residents; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail project list includes \$1.9 million for trail construction connecting Government Peak Recreation Area with the Hatcher Pass area, within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the trails funded under this Bond Measure would be built to sustainable standards, greatly reducing the costs for trail maintenance; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Alaska Long Trail would provide additional reasons for visitors to spend time and money in Alaska, particularly highly sought-after, independent travelers from around the world, helping to create jobs and new opportunities for Alaskan businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail would expand recreation opportunities for the local community, responding to the dramatic increases in demand for outdoor recreation, and providing more chances for Alaska residents to be active, healthy and happy outside; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough stands to benefit; in terms of job creation, business opportunities, and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to invest in a sustainable future for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Alaska by supporting development of a route that will stand alongside the other grand trails of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board adopted Resolution 20-02 in support of the Alaska Long Trail on October 26, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly:

- supports investment of \$13.2 million to fund trail projects identified in the Governor's general obligation bond for the Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Trail, also known as the Alaska Long Trail; and
- supports shifting this funding to the State's capital budget if the general obligation bond does not move forward

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 18 day of May, 2021.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Boeve