

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

AGENDA OF: May 18, 2021

Assembly Action:

Approved under the consent agenda. 5.18.21 KBJ

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:

WBS

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	<i>WBS</i>	
	Community Development Director	<i>CP</i>	
	Finance Director	<i>CP</i>	
	Borough Attorney	<i>CP for N.S.</i>	
	Borough Clerk	<i>Sam S/H/p</i>	<i>KBJ</i>

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: YES _____ NO X
 PRTAB Resolution Serial No. 20-02 (2 pp)
 Long Trail Project Descriptions Table (1 p)
 Resolution Serial No. 21-045 (3 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

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.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Land and Resource Management Division's Policies and Procedures Manual Part 25, Public Easements and Rights-of-Way, Section 3.5, states "it is the policy of the Borough to provide for an integrated network of easements, rights-of-ways, and trails, etc." Furthermore, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's location is a keystone position for connectivity along the proposed Alaska Long Trail, between Seward and Fairbanks.

The State of Alaska's proposed general obligation bond includes a

\$13.2M allocation for the Alaska Long Trail. Projects in the Bond Measure are "shovel ready", therefore once funding is available, these trail-building projects will provide employment opportunities for Alaskan residents. The construction of the Alaska Long Trail would also provide additional reasons for visitors to spend time and money in the Borough. This will help create more opportunities for local businesses.

The Alaska Long Trail project list identifies \$1.9M for trail construction connecting Government Peak Recreation Area with the Hatcher Pass area. This is consistent with the Borough's Hatcher Pass - Government Peak Unit Asset Management and Development Plan (2012), and the State's Hatcher Pass Management Plan (2010).

The Alaska Long Trail would have the additional benefit to expand recreation opportunities for residents, providing more chances for Alaskans to be active, healthy and happy.

If the general obligation bond does not move forward, the legislation includes language to support shifting the funding to the State's capital budget.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board (PRTAB) approved PRTAB Resolution 20-02, on October 26, 2020, in support of the Alaska Trails Initiative and Alaska Long Trail.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Borough Assembly approval of the resolution supporting the proposed State of Alaska general obligation bond \$13.2M allocation for the Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Trail, also known as the Alaska Long Trail.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 20-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTING THE ALASKA TRAILS INITIATIVE, STATEWIDE TRAILS INVESTMENT STRATEGY, AND ALASKA LONG TRAIL.

WHEREAS, the non-profit organization Alaska Trails has established a coalition of partners with links to parks, recreation and trails; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has drafted documents identified as the Alaska Trails Initiative and Statewide Trails Investment Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has identified a project known as the Alaska Long Trail as a 500 mile route from Fairbanks to Seward, as a key project for establishing trail connectivity statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Trails Initiative, the Statewide Trails Investment Strategy, and the Alaska Long Trail offer opportunities for trail development and investment in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Trails is seeking formal partnerships and have asked the Borough to sign on to the Alaska Trails Initiative, the Statewide Trails Investment Strategy, and support the Alaska Long Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board guides decision making for trails and recreation development in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, trail infrastructure investments on Matanuska-Susitna Borough lands will require maintenance costs for new development, the Statewide Trails Investment Strategy shall consider the costs and need for long term maintenance of these investments; and

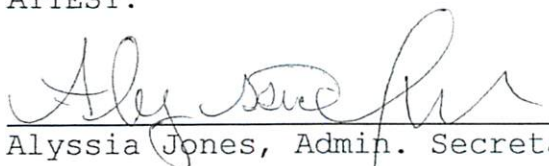
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board supports the Alaska Trails Initiative, the Statewide Trails Investment Strategy and the Alaska Long Trail, provided that the cost of maintenance is considered for infrastructure investments, and recommends the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly adopt a resolution in support of these efforts.

Adopted by the Matanuska-Susitna Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board this 26th day of October, 2020.

Ros Wahl
Vice Chair for

Ed Strabel, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Alyssia Jones, Admin. Secretary

Long Trail Project Descriptions

Department	Title	Section	Senate District	Description	Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	Designated General Funds (DGF)	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total	Fund Source
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Fairbanks Equinox Trail	C	Secure easements, construct a new section of trail on Ester Dome, and build trailheads; connects to the Nenana-Fairbanks segment.			1,200.0		1,200.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Isberg 4-Season Trail Connections	C	4 miles of trail hardening for all-season use and trailhead construction.			1,200.0		1,200.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Nenana-Fairbanks	C	28 new miles of recreational multi-use trails through Tanana Valley State Forest, linking existing forest roads.			1,600.0		1,600.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Antler Creek	C	New parking area and restroom, with short easy loop trail, leading to a longer more adventurous route up to Denali National Park; second phase is planning for a related ATV/hiking trail system north to Otto Lake.			500.0		500.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	McKinley Village/Mile 231	C	Pedestrian bridge over the Nenana River, connecting to lodging and commercial uses, with new parking, new trails to the north.			2,200.0		2,200.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Government Peak Recreation Area to Skeetawk Ski area Connector Trail	E	New 12-mile connection.			1,900.0		1,900.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Coastal Trail to Ship Creek	H-N	Connection between two major Anchorage trails.			800.0		800.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Crow Pass-Eagle River Trail	G-N	Upgrades and bridges on a trail of statewide significance that is washing into Eagle River.			1,300.0		1,300.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Turnagain Arm Trail Connection	H-N	Filling the short gap in the trail system from Girdwood to Anchorage.			300.0		300.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	"Southern Trek" of the Iditarod National Historic Trail	O	Five bridges and a new trailhead on the route from Seward to Girdwood.			2,200.0		2,200.0	Other - GO Bonds
Natural Resources	Fairbanks to Seward Multi-Use Recreation Trail Construction	Project Total					13,200.0		13,200.0	Other - GO Bonds

1M 21-087
RS 21-045