

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 07-22-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA  
SUPPORTING AND PLACING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON REPAIRS TO THE COPPER  
RIVER HIGHWAY AND URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FUND SUCH REPAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDoT&PF) is in the process of drafting a Copper River Highway Transportation Master Plan which will help envision the future of the highway corridor from mile post 0 (Cordova ferry terminal) to mile post 51 (Abercrombie Creek); and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, AKDoT&PF completed a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (PEL) of the CRH from Mile Post 27 through Mile Post 51; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the PEL was to get a head start on the planning and requirements under NEPA for any projects aimed at repair and replacement of the damaged transportation infrastructure on the Copper River Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for the PEL was manifold: 1) the August 2011 closure of bridge number 339 for public safety reasons, 2) the eastward migration of the main channel of the Copper River which as of September 4, 2019 had caused the loss of 2,875 feet of the CRH to erosion and threatens more of the same, 3) the August 2016 damage to the ice breaker protecting Pier 1 of the Million Dollar Bridge, 4) the determination that 25 damaged culverts within the highway segment of the PEL study area are inadequate for fish passage requirements, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned loss of infrastructure has had a negative effect on the commerce in Cordova because of the diminished tourism due to the inability of visitors to reach the once-popular USFS Child's Glacier Campground and Recreational Area; and

**WHEREAS**, Cordova's economic driver, commercial salmon fishing, is especially negatively affected by the impassable culverts, the roads and bridges eroding into the river which is critical salmon habitat and the vulnerability of the sonar station to damage by ice bergs or eroding parts of the Million Dollar Bridge, as it is crucial to determine salmon escapement, an integral tool for the sustainable management of fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, The Native Village of Eyak conducts ecological research in the CRH PEL study area including the operation of a fish wheel to collect biological samples of salmon which helps in the management of commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries throughout the Copper River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, as AKDoT&PF works toward final Master Plan, the draft vision statement has begun to take shape as follows: "The Copper River Highway will be a safe, reliable, multi-modal transportation corridor that provides access to recreational, economic, and cultural activities for

community members and visitors alike while sustaining the area’s scenic, cultural, and ecological attributes”; and

**WHEREAS**, a local stakeholder advisory committee is advising AKDoT&PF through this project which when completed, will document transportation issues and needs, prioritize community-identified projects, and identify potential alternatives and funding sources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Cordova places the highest priority on repairs to the Copper River Highway, eagerly anticipates the completion of the AKDoT&PF Copper River Highway Transportation Master Plan and urges the State of Alaska to fund projects that emerge from the report to make the Copper River Highway usable again.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2022**



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David Allison, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk