



Municipality of Anchorage
Housing and Neighborhood
Development Commission
HANDR 2008-6

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PURPOSE AND NEED PORTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE HIGHWAY TO HIGHWAY PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Commission is to advise the Mayor and the Assembly on issues related to long- and short-term housing and community development needs in the Municipality, and strategies to effect revitalization of lower-income and at risk neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the HAND Commission to identify and address issues in Anchorage related to long- and short- term housing issues and advise the Mayor and Assembly on policies, practices, and legislation that impacts housing and community development issues; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the HAND Commission to advise the Planning and Zoning Commission about relevant housing and community development issues and their connection with land use controls; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the HAND Commission to advise the Mayor and Assembly as to the infrastructure, facilities, transportation, and public services needs of lower-income and at-risk neighborhoods, and to facilitate public participation in housing and neighborhood revitalization policies, plans, strategies, and programs; and

WHEREAS, the HAND Commission recognizes that road and highway projects create direct and indirect impacts on commercial and residential development patterns and these land use impacts can promote or erode the social and economic vitality of lower income and at risk neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HAND Commission recognizes that high levels of noise, vibration, dust, pollution, and cut through traffic along the Gambell and Ingrm Street corridor due to the existing volume of regional traffic has created an unsafe pedestrian environment, depressed land values and community vitality in the area creating significant impediments to community development in the lower income and at risk community of Fairview; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Long Range Transportation Plan, after extensive public involvement and analysis called for a project between the Glenn and Old Seward Highway which uses topography to trench, burrow and depress a connection which uses extensive decking between 9th and 15th Avenues so that land use benefits can be realized; and


WHEREAS, the HAND Commission recognizes the restoration of the land along the Gambell and Ingrm Street corridor to its highest and best use is a vitally necessary step to improve the housing and community development needs of the lower and at risk neighborhood of Fairview and to the benefit of Anchorage as well; and

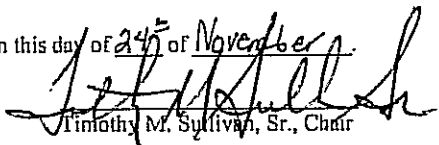
WHEREAS, a strategy for reducing traffic congestion that stresses the increased availability and efficiency of mass transit can create greater opportunities for lower income and at risk members of our community by allowing greater access to jobs, education, and health care facilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission hereby advises the Mayor, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Assembly to take appropriate action in whatever capacity available to them toward the expansion of the Purpose and Need Statement of the Highway to Highway Project beyond mobility issues in order to adequately address the negative community development impacts caused by existing traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission hereby advises the Mayor, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Assembly to take appropriate action in whatever capacity available to them toward the advancement, in the said purpose and need document, of the importance of creating greater access, efficiency, and connectivity to mass transit within those lower income and at risk neighborhoods.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission this day of 24th of November.


Carrine O'Neill, Secretary


Timothy M. Sullivan, Sr., Chair