



# Alaska State Legislature

Senator Johnny Ellis

Representative Les Gara

Official Business, State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska, 99801

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August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Commissioner Leo von Scheben  
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 112500  
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner von Scheben,

We were extremely disappointed to learn the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gambell Street Highway Safety Improvement Project has been delayed, again. Our offices worked extensively with DOT&PF, the Municipal Traffic Department, the Municipality's Office of Economic & Community Development and the Fairview Community Council (FVCC) to help move the project to construction this year.

The Fairview Community Council's leadership worked tirelessly with DOT&PF, the Mayor's Office and our offices to incorporate a pedestrian safety and beautification element in the 13<sup>th</sup> & Gambell HSIP project. The FVCC requested and received state monies to help fund the pedestrian safety and beautification elements of the project, and convinced the Mayor's Office to support \$250,000 a year for two years in MOA road bonds for the project.

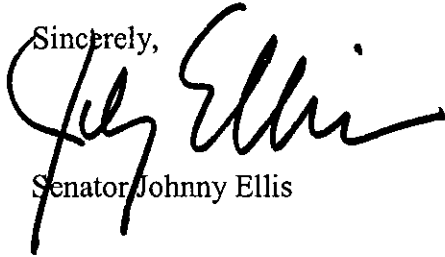
Unfortunately, right of way acquisition delayed the project, causing costs to increase. The FVCC turned to our offices and requested additional state funding, which was approved by the Governor and the Legislature. Right of way and easement have been acquired, and final designs have been submitted and approved. We were good to go, or so we thought. We recently learned the project is being postponed (again), this time until 2010. It seems that DOT&PF does not have time to deal with any non-ARRA funded transportation projects this season.

We are concerned that if DOT&PF can't move forward in a timely manner with a relatively small joint SOA-MOA transportation project, what difficulties can we expect with the proposed Highway2Highway project? Our offices and the FVCC have been strong, vocal advocates for the H2H project, working hard to establish mutually respectful and open communication and relationships. The difficulties and miscommunications with the 13<sup>th</sup> & Gambell HSIP project cause us to question how smoothly the process for the H2H project will unfold.

It would be a shame to see the scope of the pedestrian safety and beautification elements of the HSIP project scaled back significantly due to yet another construction delay. The residents, property owners and businesses in Fairview have worked too hard and too long to move this, the FVCC's #1 priority project, to construction.

Any help you can give us to ensure this project moves forward next year, without a reduction in scope, would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us regarding this extremely important neighborhood project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Johnny" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ellis".

Senator Johnny Ellis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les Gara". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large, looping initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Les Gara

Cc: Governor Sean Parnell  
Mayor Dan Sullivan,  
Assemblyman Patrick Flynn  
Lance Wilber, (AKDOT&PF)  
Sharon Chamard (FVCC Chair)  
Darrel Hess (MOA-Office of Economic & Community Development)