

AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2019-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE  
UNDERGROUNDING OF THE NEW SEWARD HIGHWAY AS AN OPTION FOR THE MIDTOWN  
CONGESTION RELIEF PLAN

WHEREAS, there are a number of plans for the Midtown Congestion Relief project that have been presented to the public at several meetings, in the media, and on the project website;

WHEREAS, none of these plans present an option that includes the undergrounding of the New Seward Highway as part of the project for the public to consider but all plans presented would divide midtown;

WHEREAS, members of the Airport Heights Community Council (AHCC) have requested such undergrounding as an option at numerous meetings;

WHEREAS, an article published in The Washington Post on February 1, 2019 entitled "A Look at How Transportation Can Transform a City" discusses how undergrounding highways can help build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city and specifically cites Seattle's newly opened highway tunnel that replaces the Alaskan Way Viaduct, which has divided the city from its waterfront businesses, as an example of how it helps transform Seattle with new public parks over the tunnel and provides efficient transportation;

WHEREAS, undergrounding of roadways has been successfully accomplished in other states and in Europe;


WHEREAS, AHCC wants to have a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city developed for its children and subsequent generations;

WHEREAS, AHCC recognizes that undergrounding as part of the Midtown Congestion Relief Plan will initially be more expensive but by learning from the examples of other cities who have had to rebuild, Anchorage and Alaska will save the expenditure of having to rebuild in 20 years or so when an ill-conceived project becomes outdated;

WHEREAS, an underground highway provides potential income for taxes of property that would be built over the undergrounded highway, which will help offset any income loss from land that may need to be seized through eminent domain;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Airport Heights Community Council supports the undergrounding of the New Seward Highway as an option for the Midtown Congestion Relief Plan for the public to review and recommend.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Airport Heights Community Council on February 21, 2019 by a vote of: FOR 15, AGAINST 0, ABSTAIN 0.

  
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Carolyn Ramsey  
President