

Rogers Park Community Council

(Including Anchor Park, College Village, Woodside East and Rogers Park)

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A Resolution Opposing “U-Med District Northern Access” To the University Medical District (U-Med)

WHEREAS, The Municipality of Anchorage 2013 Legislative Program (for State fiscal year 2014), includes a request for \$20,000,000 to “design and construct arterial road access to the U-Med District from the north”; and

WHEREAS, That request says “Improvements are expected to include a new three to four lane road with pedestrian facilities, storm drain with curb and gutter, street lighting, landscaping, and any other amenities deemed desirable to preserve the existing character of the area;” and

WHEREAS, The requested \$20,000,000 is based on crude estimates in a “reconnaissance” study by DOWL¹, which is “an early stage study of a transportation issue to identify transportation needs and potential solutions...;” and

WHEREAS, The DOWL study does not recommend a preferred alternative and does not include budget-quality estimates for the cost of design and construction of any of the potential solutions they recommended to be carried forward; and,

¹ “Northern Access to the University and Medical District – Reconnaissance Study Report,” DOWL, September 2011

WHEREAS, The DOWL study admits that the “order of magnitude” cost estimates in the study “...do not take into account specific soil and groundwater conditions, landscaping, environmental permitting and mitigation, land acquisition, bridges and tunnels, or other non-standard roadway elements”² associated with the various alternatives that they evaluated; and

WHEREAS, those necessary costs would boost this project’s budget well beyond \$20,000,000; and

WHEREAS, The U-Med District Plan and the UAA Master Plan are currently being updated and will address transportation needs in general and the northern access issue in particular; and

WHEREAS, The 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan ranked this project 25th out of 43 projects destined for construction sometime before the year 2023, which suggests that there are many other more important and worthy projects; and

WHEREAS, The Anchorage Assembly has on its Tuesday, January 15, 2013, agenda a proposal to transfer a \$1 million state grant that the city obtained to the ADOT&PF to take engineering and environmental studies for the arterial road to the next level, beginning this spring; and

WHEREAS, The Rogers Park Community Council (RPCC) approved resolutions in 2009 and 2011 (attached) opposing a road through the U-Med area between Providence Drive and Northern Lights Boulevard; therefore be it

RESOLVED THAT, RPCC does not support a new road through the U-Med area between Providence Drive and Northern Lights Boulevard; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT, RPCC requests that the state budget not include the requested \$20,000,000; and be it finally

RESOLVED THAT, RPCC requests that no additional engineering or environmental work be conducted on this project until the U-Med District Plan and UAA Master Plans are complete.

PASSED AND APPROVED by Rogers Park Community Council this 14th day of January, 2013.

This resolution passed by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

Respectfully,

Janet Bidwell

Janet Bidwell
President, Rogers Park Community Council

² Ibid, p. 73