

AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Resolution 2015-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (AHCC) REQUESTING THAT FUNDS FOR THE NORTHERN ACCESS ROAD INTO THE U-MED DISTRICT BE WITHDRAWN FOR COLLATERAL, FISCAL, AND SAFETY IMPACTS.

WHEREAS, should a Northern Access Road project into the U-Med district be developed, it will extend Bragaw Street south at Northern Lights Boulevard to connect with Elmore Road,

WHEREAS, should a Northern Access Road project into the U-Med district be developed, the project's 2011 traffic study predicts significant traffic along the section of Bragaw between the Glenn Highway and the U-Med District (both to access U-Med and using the North Access Road to cut through the District),

WHEREAS, according to the AMATS LRTP, the Bragaw Street and Northern Lights Boulevard intersection was over capacity as of 2002, and the Bragaw Street and DeBarr Road intersection was at capacity as of 2002,

WHEREAS, this corridor was not planned as a major throughway, so there is no remaining right-of-way (ROW) available to expand Bragaw without using eminent domain to acquire ROW. This would place a financial burden on the Municipality in eminent domain costs plus the loss of tax assessed revenue from the acquired land,

WHEREAS, the value of properties along the Bragaw corridor (>\$50 million) will make any road project both extremely expensive and also remove significant property value from the Municipality's revenue stream,

WHEREAS, the project had a low priority on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan when funded, and U-Med peak congestion has already been significantly improved by the UAA Drive/ Northern Lights intersection improvements constructed in 2014,

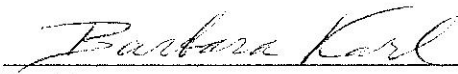
WHEREAS, additionally, the increased traffic along Bragaw has caused significant concern to the Airport Heights Community Council for safety of area students (East High, Russian Jack Elementary, and Alaska Native Cultural Charter Schools) who need to cross Bragaw Street to reach their schools,

WHEREAS, a letter from Page & Turnbull the consulting company hired to assist in the 2015 U-Med District Plan states that a large majority of the input they received was related to the Northern Access road and "overwhelmingly those who participated at their public meetings were against the road and those that were not were resigned that it was going to happen whether they wanted it or not,"

WHEREAS, \$20 million from the State of Alaska plus \$15 million in donated land from the University equaling \$35 million for 7/10 of a mile of road is fiscally irresponsible, and all of the proposed amenities originally promised in exchange for University donated land including roundabouts, a 10' separated trail and 2 pedestrian overpasses for trail connection are not funded,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AHCC requests that funding be withdrawn for this project, since the project need is currently not critical or desired, the project creates safety hazards and significant burden on the fiscally-constrained State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage taxpayers.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Airport Heights Community Council on March 19, 2015 by a vote of: FOR 13, AGAINST 0, ABSTAIN 2.



President