

CHUGIAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 671350
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June 3, 2004

TO: Frank McQueary
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SUBJECT: Context Sensitive Road Design

Dear Mr. McQueary,

At the monthly meeting of the Chugiak Community Council (Council), held on May 20, 2004, you presented the organization and goals of the Anchorage Road Coalition. The Coalition, which includes several community councils within the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), advocates 1) safe, neighborhood friendly, cost effective street construction, 2) educating users to understand the impacts of street design, 3) and lobbying the MOA and SOA to adopt a rigorous process prior to street design to consider potential impacts to all stakeholders.

Subsequently, a motion was made and seconded to support a resolution to urge the State of Alaska (SOA) and MOA to adopt context sensitive design practices for road building. With much discussion and two minor modifications, this motion passed with 32 members in support, 7 members opposed, and one member abstaining. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved that: Whereas the citizens of the Municipality/State have found their ability to participate in and influence the road planning functions of the Municipality and the State to be inadequate, we request that the Mayor/Governor adopt the following policy and require the MOA/State road planning organizations adhere to it:

- **New Executive Order for Context Sensitive Solutions**

This New Executive Order directs MOA/SOA employees to implement Context Sensitive Solutions tools on all department projects.

- **Context Sensitive Solutions**

Context Sensitive Solutions is a model for transportation project development that has recently received much discussion and broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the historic, aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints, and opportunities in a larger community setting. MOA/SOA endorses the Context Sensitive Solutions approach for all projects, large and small, from early planning through construction and eventual operation.

This means that MOA/SOA employees working on projects and facilities should:

- Engage from the project's inception with representatives of affected communities, including elected and appointed officials and a widely representative array of interested citizens.
- Assure that transportation objectives of projects are clearly described and discussed with local communities in a process that encourages reciprocal communication about local views and needs in the overall project setting.
- Pay attention to and address community and citizen concerns.
- Ensure the project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.
- Context Sensitive Solutions is a process that places a high value on seeking and, if possible, achieving consensus. MOA's/SOA's belief is that consensus is highly advantageous to all parties and may help avoid delay and other costly obstacles to project implementation.

You can contact me at 688-6575 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Merten Bangemann-Johnson
President
Chugiak Community Council

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