

HAINES BOROUGH

**Adopted**

RESOLUTION 07-01-098

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE HAINES HIGHWAY CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND NOMINATION OF THE HAINES HIGHWAY AS A NATIONAL BYWAY.

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough along with the Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT/PF) has supported the Haines Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway and initiated the process to nominate the Haines Highway for the next level of designation as a National Byway; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway corridor has been a historic trade route for the Chilkat Tlingit people for a millennia and more recently as an access route via the Dalton Trail to the Klondike Goldfields, and as a military road linking coastal Alaska to the interior of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway now provides an essential road link for transporting people and commerce between Southeast Alaska and the All-American Alaska's Marine Highway connecting Haines, Klukwan, and the community of Haines Junction in the Yukon Territory, Canada and the Alaska Highway; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway traverses world-class scenery and ecosystems including Lynn Canal, the Chilkat and Klehini River Valleys, and the 21-million-acre UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site that includes Canada's Kluane National Park and Preserve, and the Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway provides access to the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve and the world's largest congregation of bald eagles totaling nearly 4,000 birds every autumn and winter and is formally known as the 'Valley of the Eagles'; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway corridor is rich in Native Tlingit culture including the Chilkat and Chilkoot people and includes the traditional Village of Klukwan; and their culture will be strengthened and showcased in the development of the Jilkaat Kwaan Culture Heritage Center along the Haines Highway; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway provides access to outstanding recreation opportunities including hiking, rafting, fishing, cycling, camping, snow-machining, and extreme skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the Haines Highway Partnership Corridor Plan and subsequent National Byway designation will bring the Haines Highway the attention it deserves as an outstanding travel destination that will increase visitations, lengthen visitor stays along the highway, and enhance the economies of businesses and communities along the corridor; and,

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WHEREAS, the process of developing the Haines Highway Partnership Corridor Plan and subsequent National Byway designation will strengthen partnerships between local communities, businesses, agencies, individuals, and organizations; and assist in developing the Haines Highway as an international Byway with our neighbors in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory in Canada; and,

WHEREAS, making improvements to the highway through these partnerships and National Byway funding can enhance the highway for both residents and visitors including improved recreation facilities, interpretation opportunities, enhanced cultural activities, and marketing efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

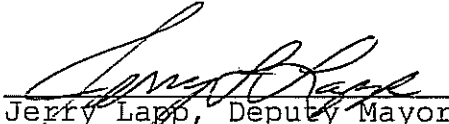
SECTION 1: That the 2007 Haines Highway Corridor Partnership Plan, including its goals, objectives and recommendations, is endorsed and that opportunities should be pursued to ensure these recommendations are executed including working with the AKDOT/PF, and other agencies and organizations;

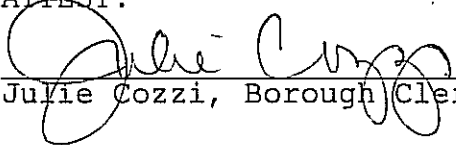
SECTION 2: That Haines byway supporters and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities are encouraged to proceed with the designation of the Haines Highway as a National Byway under the Federal Highway Administration, America's Byways Program;

SECTION 3: The borough clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the AKDOT/PF for the purpose of conveying the borough assembly's interest in the project and willingness to be active participants.

SECTION 4: Effective Date: This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF THE HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA, THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF January, 2007.

  
Jerry Lapp, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk

