



Municipality of Anchorage

Office of the Mayor

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

December 4, 2015

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Commissioner Luiken:

After much consideration and conversations with Anchorage residents and stakeholders, I am writing to withdraw the Municipality of Anchorage's support for the Northern Access Project extending Elmore Road to Bragaw Street. I do not believe this is the highest priority transportation and infrastructure need in the Municipality and plan on working with the Alaska Legislature to re-appropriate the remaining \$17 million to higher priority infrastructure needs in Anchorage.

Not only is the Northern Access Project opposed by the majority of the neighboring community councils, there is no agreement between the Municipality, the State and other interested parties as to who will bear responsibility for any cost overruns. Additionally, the original road designs that were presented to the public are contingent on funds that may not cover the costs, and many of the design elements required by the Municipality and originally proposed for the road are now considered "additive alternates" with no guarantee of inclusion.

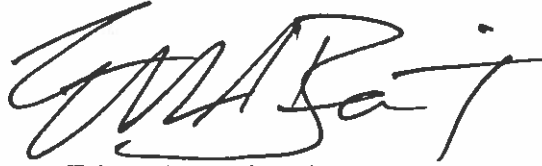
The current fiscal restraints facing the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage have already forced significant cuts to capital programs that force us to focus on highest priority needs, not wants. The most immediate need for Anchorage is the Port of Anchorage Modernization Project.

This project will require well over \$300 million in new funding to ensure the Port will meet the needs of shippers and consumers for the next 75 years. I will ask the Legislature to re-appropriate the \$17 million remaining for this Project.

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I greatly appreciate the outreach you and your Department have done to the Municipality on this project. I look forward to working with you as we move forward to redirect these funds to other, higher priority needs in Anchorage. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Berkowitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ethan A. Berkowitz
Mayor