

Presented by: Mayor Botelho /  
Assemblymember  
Bush  
Introduced: 10/10/2005  
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2330(b)

### **A Resolution In Support of the North Douglas Crossing and West Douglas Development.**

WHEREAS, the North Douglas Crossing is the #1 priority of the City and Borough of Juneau's Emergency Plan for creating secondary and more efficient access to Douglas Island's current 5,000 residents; as well as critical access between the Mendenhall Valley and the downtown area in the event of an Egan Drive, Juneau/Douglas bridge or North Douglas Highway blockage for any reason; and

WHEREAS, the North Douglas Crossing is critical as access for Juneau's future economic development in West Douglas; and

WHEREAS, West Douglas is acknowledged as the most logical area for residential and industrial growth in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, access to West Douglas would provide opportunities for the U.S. Coast Guard to relocate its current operations from downtown and create dock space large enough for its proposed new vessel; and

WHEREAS, access to West Douglas would enhance opportunities for improved inter-modal transportation links to other remote communities in Southeast, such as Hoonah and Hawk Inlet, and enhance Juneau's place as a regional hub; and

WHEREAS, access to West Douglas would provide opportunities for port development and possible use by private industries such as fisheries, manufacturing, cruise lines, shipping companies, and public entities such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and

WHEREAS, access to West Douglas would enhance development of the golf course, provide rapid access to Eaglecrest for a majority of residents, and open up opportunities for other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, access to West Douglas would provide a prime location for ancillary utilities such as wastewater treatment and a heliport; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Impact Statement Preliminary Scoping Report indicates that the alternatives which best meet the "Purpose and Need" of the project are those from Vanderbilt Hill to Yandukin Drive; and

WHEREAS, the areas that have the highest environmental assets and high crossing costs are:

- (A) West of the Juneau International Airport including the Mendenhall River;
- (B) Western end of Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Reserve (MWSGR);
- (C) Mendenhall Peninsula;
- (D) Fritz Cove;
- (E) North Douglas Island in the vicinity of Fish Creek; and
- (F) Area near the mouth of Salmon Creek, which is also of special environmental concern.

WHEREAS, reasons for eliminating further consideration of the above listed areas by the City and Borough are based upon a comprehensive set of factors, including environmental "hot spot" areas and potential impacts to protected species; comments from regulatory agencies; results of preliminary travel demand analysis; geometric constraints with crossing the Mendenhall River in the vicinity of Industrial Boulevard and potential conflicts with Federal Aviation Regulation 49 CFR Part 77 - Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace; potential conflicts with future expansion plans at JIA; potential Section 4(f) (U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966) resources and the Mendenhall Peninsula and North Douglas Island; and high crossing type/costs; and

WHEREAS, the potential financial and environmental costs of a crossing will be mitigated by refining the range of representative crossing concepts that are reasonable for future project development; and

WHEREAS, the Purpose and Need of potential crossing concepts are met by the following proposed three crossings: Vanderbilt Hill Road Area Crossing, Sunny Drive Area Crossing, Yandukin Drive Area Crossing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

**Section 1.** The Assembly supports completion of the "Juneau Second Channel Crossing Environmental Impact Statement."

**Section 2.** The Assembly resolves to support elimination of the area west of the Juneau International Airport from consideration for a potential crossing corridor, based upon recommendations provided in the EIS Preliminary Scoping Report, and also resolves to focus on three proposed crossing concepts that best meet the Purpose and Need of the proposed crossing concepts; *i.e.*, Vanderbilt Hill Road Area Crossing, Sunny Drive Area Crossing, and Yandukin Drive Area Crossing.

**Section 3.** The Assembly adopts the 1997 CBJ and West Douglas and Goldbelt, Inc., Conceptual Plan as a general strategy for development, and will actively participate in planning for this new growth area.


**Section 4.** The Assembly supports a bench road on North Douglas as a necessary transportation improvement in the future to reduce traffic on North Douglas Highway and enhance access to West Douglas, particularly from downtown and Douglas, and directs that the Juneau Second Crossing Environmental Impact Statement should analyze crossing alternatives on the assumption that they will eventually terminate at a bench road on Douglas Island.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005.

  
Bruce Botelho, Mayor

Attest:

  
Laurie J. Sica, Clerk