

Chairman Fitzpatrick,

Thank you for your comments on Amendment #1 to the 2016-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Public engagement and participation are important components to the success of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities mission to *Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure*.

We understand that the Prince of Wales – Neck Lake Road is important project for the community. It was identified in 2019 as an illustrative project. We are aware that sometimes the term illustrative can be confusing. Although, the project was identified in 2019, it was never fully funded and thus listed as illustrative. If funds were to become available a review of the illustrative projects would be made and possibly funded.

As you are aware, in this fiscal climate, it is important that the Department maintain a statewide perspective when programming projects to ensure the highest possible return on investment. That being said, the STIP is a four-year, fiscally constrained, statewide planning and programming document that is continuously revised to adjust for project schedules and funding categories as projects identified in the 2016-2019 STIP develop.

We are pleased that you are in support of the four projects you identified in your letter. We will continue to work with your area planner in the Southcoast region as well as your local community to develop projects for Prince of Wales in the future.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the STIP or other transportation projects in your area, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Area Planner for Southcoast Region, Marie Heidemann at 907-465-1775 or by email at marie.heidemann@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

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