

**Denali Borough, Alaska
Planning Commission
Resolution No. PC 14-11**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PARKS HIGHWAY MP 231 ENHANCEMENTS AND
OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE DESIGN TO THE PRESENT PROJECT AS OUTLINED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES IN PUBLIC MEETINGS
DURING SEPTEMBER 2014**

WHEREAS, this project will provide much needed improvements at MP 231; and

WHEREAS, the planning commission anticipates that the enhancements will not address all the safety issues encountered in this area by the time it is built in 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, the businesses in this area have already started implementing plans to grow their businesses those plans will continue through at least the next five years; and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) proposed improvements address some crucial safety issues there are several concerns regarding vehicular traffic flow in an already congested area that merit consideration; and

WHEREAS, it does not address north and south bound through lanes that would avoid requiring through traffic to slow or stop to accommodate the many commercial buses, vans and other private traffic stopping and turning into the businesses and other planned National Park Service (NPS) parking and rest room facilities in this area; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Planning Commission has reviewed this project and has a proposed alternative design that it foresees would better accommodate the future expansion in the area; and

WHEREAS, this proposal provides north and south bound lanes that would not require through traffic to slow or stop to accommodate turning traffic and would improve sight distances for traffic going north and coming down a steep hill into a congested area with turning traffic in both directions; and

WHEREAS, by moving the access road into Denali Park Village further to the south, a left turn lane into Denali Park Village south of the bridge is possible; and

WHEREAS, the material from the old access road and the waste material from cutting the bank back to accommodate a right turn lane into Denali Park Village could provide material for this new access and would also increase sight distances for north-bound traffic coming down the steep hill; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough could accommodate the DOT&PF with a short access ROW across a small section of borough land; and

WHEREAS, the project's boundaries extend to mile MP 230, a left turn lane as shown on the attached drawing at the intersection of the Parks Highway and the Old Parks Highway is very

much needed to keep turning traffic safe and prevent the possibility of loss of lives and serious accidents; and

WHEREAS, the planning commission's proposed alternative design has additional benefits as follows:

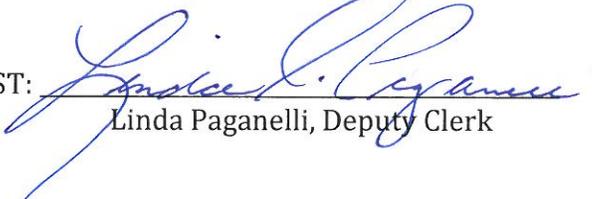
- Left turn lane into the NPS parking and restroom facilities
- Left turn lane into Grizzly Bear facilities
- Left turn lanes into Denali Park Village facilities
- North and south bound through lanes without reduction in speed
- Improved sight distances for north bound traffic coming down a steep hill with a curve into a congested area
- Right turn lanes into Denali Park Village facilities, Grizzly Bear facilities, and NPS parking and restroom facilities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the planning commission supports this alternative design along with the other proposed improvements to MP 231, such as the pedestrian tunnel under the Parks Highway and the pedestrian bridge across the Nenana River with the required paths, stop signs and other interpretive signage that will fulfill the needs of this area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Denali Borough Planning Commission strongly recommends that DOT&PF incorporate these design suggestions into their planning process to help make the MP 230-231 area of the Parks Highway safer.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Denali Borough Planning Commission this 11th day of November 2014.


Sidney MICHAELS, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: 
Linda Paganelli, Deputy Clerk



VOTE: YEA - GRIGGS, JONES, MENKE, MICHAELS, TENCH
NAY - 0
ABSENT - LIGHTFOOT, MERCER

Mile Post 231 Enhancement Project

