

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## P. W. / MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John J. Williams, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

**THROUGH:** Tim Navarre, Chief of Staff

**FROM:** Walter Robson, Major Projects Director

**DATE:** December 5, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Response to Assembly questions for North Road Project

The North Road project had the first phase, Scoping Phase, completed in fall of 2005. One conflict arose at that time and a moratorium was then placed on this project, by the former administration, to allow additional time to assess the position, proffered by various regulatory agencies. This position was that if the borough was to continue on the basis that only an environmental assessment, (EA vs. EIS) would be sought, that the borough should relinquish any desire to develop the Pt. Possession property. Review of federal documents and further coordination with those agencies, revealed that this restriction could not be automatically delegated and that the intent of applying for the review of an EA type environmental review could go forward. Involuntary staff reductions also stymied the continuance of activity on the project until this fall.

Staff has now been secured and will now go forward with the issuance of an RFP, to solicit for a consultant firm, to carry out the various public/federal processes, for securing that environmental review. The State of AK, FHWA approved process, for consultant services are rather lengthy. It is perceived that with public solicitation, state review, short list determination and fee negotiation, that award would follow in spring '07.

Preliminary design, in coordination with the lengthy process of conceptual surveying, along with route option(s) evaluation and determination will commence in immediate coordination with the environmental assessment process. This is expected to take 1-2 years depending on extent of State and Federal reviews. (Here it should be noted that an EIS could easily run 2-3 years in duration.) Approximately, \$2.531M is available for activities, inclusive of this environmental phase, and is anticipated to be acceptable for these varied tasks.

Once a particular route, road concept, specific design are finalized, the final design stage would be initiated upon EA acceptance. Final costs for this completion phase would only be determined upon concept design completion. Construction funds could then be defined and appropriations sought.