

Introduced by: Pete A. Williams, City Manager
Date: June 13, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 23-13

SUPPORT UPDATE FOR CITY OF BETHEL APPLICATION TO COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TO FUND DONUT HOLE ROAD PROJECT

- WHEREAS,** with a population of 6,154, Bethel is the largest rural community in Alaska off the central Statewide road network and located 400 miles west of Anchorage in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region;
- WHEREAS,** the community of Bethel has 36 miles of road, half of which are paved and mostly managed by the State of Alaska and half of which are gravel and managed by the City;
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Division of Program Development & Statewide Planning, is currently soliciting road project nominations through the Community Transportation Program for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP);
- WHEREAS,** the CTP application required Resolution #23-07 approved on May 9, 2023 to be updated for its road project and the city commitments contained therein;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel is eligible to apply for funding for design and construction of the Donut Hole Road from the State under this opportunity and has support for this project from Philana Miles, former Acting Central Regional Planner;
- WHEREAS,** the proposed Donut Hole Road is a gravel road that will begin at the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway and extend north through many city easements in a nearly straight path to Ptarmigan Street;
- WHEREAS,** Easements and rights-of-ways will be sought, if funded, from Bethel Native Corporation and other land owners;

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WHEREAS, the north-south road will be bisected by an extension of Akiachak Avenue, which will provide a direct route from either direction to the YK Fitness Center and Yuut Elitnarviat-The People's Learning Center;

WHEREAS, completion of the Donut Hole Road will provide a convenient north-south local road to help move vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians on the east side of town easier, quicker, and safer than the use of Akakeek Street or Ridgecrest Drive;

WHEREAS, this resolution is made public by issuance of the council meeting agenda and packet on the City's website, posting on the City's facebook page, paper notices on bulletin boards in Bethel, KYUK Radio Station advertisements, and the Civic Clerk subscription service for packet dissemination;

WHEREAS, Bethel community member involvement is encouraged during the council meeting via emails in advance of the meeting that will be read out loud by the City Clerk or speaking on zoom during the meeting or speaking in-person at City Hall;

WHEREAS, the new road will be designed and constructed to conform to the City's Complete Streets requirement in Bethel Municipal Code 12.05, which will certainly include safety features that mitigate crashes and provide room for bicycles and pedestrians and crossings for snowmachines and four-wheelers;

WHEREAS, the new road will improve accessibility and reduce transportation cost from the Tundra Ridge Subdivision, Ouivik subdivision, and those living on Ptarmigan Street to City Center, the Post Office, and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation facilities;

WHEREAS, the Donut Hole Road will open up City land and private land development along the road, increasing economic opportunities;

WHEREAS, the City uses CDL drivers/operators to maintain 18 miles of roadways, driveways, and parking lots by operating graders, dump trucks, bulldozers, rollers, sand spreaders, water sprayers, and water haul trucks to build roads, repair roads, remove snow and vehicles from easements, reduce ice impacts, improve drainage, and other crucial duties;

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WHEREAS, the City plans to demonstrate the use of a new emulsifier on one mile of gravel road in summer 2023 and if the use of this emulsifier proves successful, the city will incorporate it into the maintenance of the Donut Hole Road as an innovative binding agent for gravel and sand in Bethel;

WHEREAS, the new road is expected to be used by all Bethel residents, but those in close proximity include 117 households in Bethel Heights containing individuals in the low-income bracket managed by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation;

WHEREAS, The Donut Hole Road passes by the Ciullkulek Subdivision, the subdivision being developed by the Orutsararmiut Native Council, the Tribe in Bethel, as it begins from Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway and heads north to the connection to Akiachak;

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities estimated the cost of the donut hole road to be \$15,900,000, which includes: right of way (\$1,000,000), design (\$3,800,000), and construction (\$11,100,000);

WHEREAS, the City's required minimum match for zero points is 9.03% of the total cost or \$1,435,770, but City Administration recommends a cash match pledge of \$1,594,771 (over 10.03%) in order to earn two points on the evaluation;

WHEREAS, if the Donut Hole Road project scores high enough to be funded, DOT&PF will offer the City a grant agreement that will require the City to agree to pay up to 50% more of the design and right of way costs (\$2,450,000), if needed to meet the bid price, and 15% more of the construction cost (\$1,650,000), if needed to meet the bid price;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel has the right to decline the grant agreement when offered, but must pledge the cash match of \$1,594,771 in this resolution to keep its grant application alive;

WHEREAS, the bid price for design and/or the bid price for construction could be higher or lower than the expected project cost;

WHEREAS, the Donut Hole Road project application passed the first two DOT&PF screens and will be evaluated and scored by the Project Evaluation Board meeting scheduled for July 13-14, 2023;

WHEREAS, the City commits to operate and maintain the Donut Hole Road in perpetuity, once completed and ready for use;

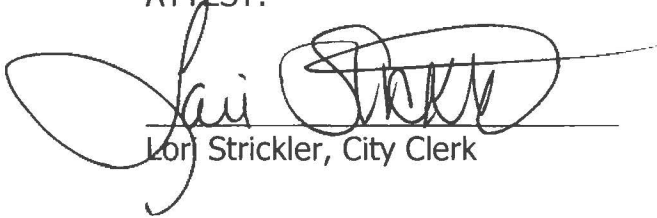
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Bethel supports the City's CTP application to request funding for design and construction of the Donut Hole Road in Bethel, Alaska at a DOT&PF estimated cost of \$15,900,000;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the project is funded, the City commits to provide \$1,594,771 in cash match for the project and to operate and maintain the Donut Hole Road with all of the personnel, equipment, and materials it deems necessary so that the public may enjoy the use of the road for the foreseeable future;

ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE 2023 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk


Rose Henderson, Mayor

BETHEL, ALASKA