



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Johnny Ellis

Representative Berta Gardner

Official Business, 716 West 4th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501

Commissioner Leo von Scheben
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
PO Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99801

September 28, 2009

Dear Commissioner von Scheben,

We write you today to make our position very clear: we cannot and will not support any route for the proposed Highway to Highway connection that will result in the destruction of an established neighborhood. Midtown Anchorage is made up of many areas where hard-working citizens have devoted their lives to establishing and improving their community for many decades. We will do everything in our legal and political power to ensure that those lives are not disrupted by any potential project.

Specifically, the proposed East City and Boniface alternatives would cut the Campbell Park area in half, while the Northern Lights, 15th Avenue, and Orca alternatives threaten the Rogers Park and Tudor areas. These are all neighborhoods where the residents place a high value on their quality of life, and have worked to maintain it. We understand that you are required to explore all alternatives, but we encourage you and your team to dismiss the East City, Boniface, Northern Lights, 15th Avenue, and Orca alternatives because of the unnecessary disruptions they would cause to the people of Midtown Anchorage.

Over the years, we have been pleased to work with the Department of Transportation on a range of projects both big and small that have improved local streets and major highways. We look forward to doing so in the future. However, we will not be supportive of continued funding for a Highway to Highway project that brings forward the overwhelming community opposition these routes have received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Ellis".

Senator Johnny Ellis

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Berta".

Representative Berta Gardner

Cc: Julianne Hanson, Highway to Highway project office