AMD17-116 4/15/08

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t: Monday, April 14, 2008 2:52 PM
To: DOT STIP
Subject: STIP Amendment Comments
Attachments: STIP COMMENTS 4-14-08.doc

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April 14, 2008

Mr. Jeff Ottesen
Director
Division of Program Development
ADOT/PF
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK. 99811-2500

SUBJECT: Draft Amendment # 17 / 2006-2009 STIP

Dear Mr. Ottesen:

The City of Homer has completed its review of Draft Amendment # 17 to the 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). This correspondence contains the City's comments on the Draft Amendment.

The City was very disappointed to see that the Draft Amendment does not contain the Homer Intersections Improvement Project. As you know, this project has been one of the City's top road transportation priorities for some time. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities conducted a transportation study here two summers ago with a specific focus on traffic flow and safety at intersections. The study resulted in a document entitled Homer Intersections Planning Study. The Study recommended that six intersections needed immediate attention with some type of traffic control. Two other intersections were expected to need improvements in 2010. The focus was on roundabouts and/or traffic signals.

The Homer Intersections Planning Study was developed into a STIP project by DOT/PF staff but it was ultimately dropped from the STIP list due to reduced Federal funding. The City recognizes that transportation needs within the State far exceed the amount of money available to DOT/PF. However, improving some of the most dangerous intersections in Homer is an urgent health and safety issue for the community. Improving intersections would also greatly help with traffic flow, particularly during the summer months.

We understand that the State may not be able to provide funding for the entire intersection project at once. To that end, the City suggests that DOT/PF focus on one or two of the most dangerous intersections at a time. The top priority for the City is the intersection of Main St. and the Sterling Highway. Now might be the perfect time to add this project to the STIP because the FY 06 State Capital budget adopted by the Legislature contains $2 Million for upgrades to this intersection and the State portion of Main Steet This would provide an excellent match for Federal STIP dollars.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft STIP Amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Walt Wrede
City Manager

c.

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton