Introduced by: City Manager Capela
Date: June 14, 2016
Action: Adopted
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 16-22

SUPPORT AND APPROVAL FOR CITY OF BETHEL TO PURSUE FUNDING FROM THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Bethel is the largest rural Alaska town off the road system with 6,275 residents and thousands of visitors and temporary residents from nearby villages;

WHEREAS, Bethel is a highly transient community with 35% of the community in low-moderate income status, a low vehicle ownership rate, and a 15% unemployment rate;

WHEREAS, many residents and visitors in Bethel walk from place to place out of necessity;

WHEREAS, safe, off-road pedestrian pathways offer a convenient alternative to walking alongside the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway and other roadways that contain vehicles, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, and motorcycles;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is eligible to apply for pedestrian trail funding from the FY 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program;

WHEREAS, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the City of Bethel are collaborating on the development of a gravel trail that would run from the existing hospital to the Kuskokwim Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks;

WHEREAS, the trail must be ADA-compliant and the City is working to achieve that outcome;

WHEREAS, YKHC is expected to contribute the 20% cash match required by the grant and the City will donate sand from its sand pit;

WHEREAS, YKHC will operate and maintain any trail constructed on YKHC property;

WHEREAS, the City will operate and maintain any trail constructed on City property and on the property of other entities in which right-of-ways are obtained;

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Whereas, the completion of a new gravel trail on the ground will offer a safe, convenient route between the hospital, primary care center, and hospital housing to the college campus, college dormitories, cultural center, and City Hall.

WHEREAS, various methods will be used to limit the trail to pedestrians and bicycles with no motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, the deadline to prepare and submit a grant application is June 30, 2016;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports and approves of the City preparing and submitting a grant application to the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program to request funding to develop a new trail from the hospital to the Kuskokwim Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks;

ENACTED THIS 14th DAY OF JUNE 2016 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk