



CITY OF WASILLA

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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM NO. 92-32

FROM: Mayor Stein

DATE: March 4, 1992

RE: Main Street Configuration

At the DOT/PF public workshop Tuesday, March 3, a group of citizens presented strong support for the Main Street/Knik Street couplet in preference to the five-lane configuration for Main Street. Individuals have asked to be heard by Council to request reconsideration of the City position supporting the five-lane configuration. Their reasoning is that the couplet better meets the long-term growth of the City. Allegedly it disperses rather than concentrates traffic, allows easier vehicle and pedestrian crossing, increases property values, provides pedestrian overcrossing of the Parks Highway and railroad and takes property now while costs and development density are low.

DOT/PF had discounted the couplet because of the significantly higher costs and the then low 2.5% projections for growth. More recent Department of Labor projections indicate 5% growth in the Valley. Increased costs to \$15 million are estimated to be \$4 million over the \$11 million five-lane alternative. Not unmanageable.

All acknowledge the need for a new highway. It may be prudent to push for the couplet project now, rather than accept higher traffic along Main Street. It would be possible to develop a couplet as a future project. The seven-year planning cycle would, however, push that development easily to the year 2000. Alternatively, community insistence on a project not supported by projected traffic needs may result in delay or cancellation of any road improvements.

Members of the public supporting the couplet have asked to be heard. They include Cindy Bettine and Jim Tapscott.



John C. Stein, Mayor

*Approved per Attachment
A 3/9/92 ~~1004~~*

Attachment A

1. Letter to DOT/PF stating city's concern about project and would like further info on Couplet concept.
2. DOT PF prepare preliminary conceptual design, scope problems, real estate impact, estimated costs.
3. Resume public hearings on 'Couplet'.
4. City Decision.