



	Approved	Denied
Action taken	6/12/06	
Other:	Selected Option # 1	
Verified by:	K. Moe	

**WASILLA CITY COUNCIL ACTION MEMORANDUM**


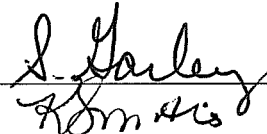
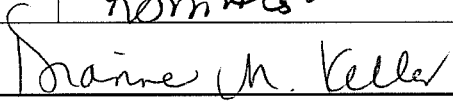
**AM No. 06-29**

**TITLE: Selection of a theme for landscaping projects in conjunction with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Projects in Wasilla.**

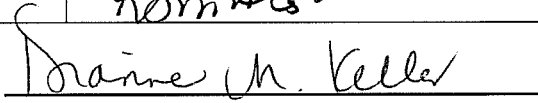
Agenda of: June 12, 2006

Date: June 1, 2006

Originator: Community and Economic Development

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Police Youth Court, Dispatch, Code Compliance	
	Culture and Recreational Services Library, Museum, Sports Complex	
X	Public Works & Recreation Facility Maintenance	
<del>X</del>	Finance, Risk Management & MIS Purchasing	
X	Deputy Administrator Planning, Economic development, Human Resources	
X	City Clerk	

**REVIEWED BY MAYOR DIANNE M. KELLER:**



**FISCAL IMPACT:**  yes  no

Funds Available  yes  no

Account name/number:

Attachments: WPC Resolution 05-25  
Wasilla Revitalization Image Sampler  
DOT Review drawings Parks Highway Project for Tommy Moe intersection

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The Planning Commission has met with representatives of the Alaska Department of Transportation and their consultants to discuss DOT's landscaping as part of future highway projects in Wasilla.

Up to this point in time, DOT's consulting landscape designers have developed landscaping for highway projects as individual design concepts. The Planning

Commission would like to see all of the future landscaping developed with one central theme to maximize the visual impact of the landscaping.

Land Design North provided the Commission with several landscape design concepts that could serve as a landscaping guide. The Commission discussed the use of a central theme and focal points, or gateways, created by the use of creative lighting, embossed concrete forms, fences, interpretative signs, benches, and art work to emphasize that travelers are in Wasilla.

Current landscaping provided by DOT has largely focused on providing rows of trees along the roadway without conscious effort to frame views of the mountains or lakes. By creating a landscape theme and adopting the gateway concept, DOT landscaping in the future would frame views with massed plantings and create visual reference points along the highway that would assist travelers in finding their way around in Wasilla.

The landscaping gateway concept will, if adopted, provide primary nodes of tree plantings, annual displays, highlighted hardscape materials and banners or bollards at key intersections such as Crusey, Main Street, Tommy Moe Drive, Lucille and Swanson Avenue with secondary nodes of flower posts and shrub plantings at intersections such as Knik Street, Willow Street, and Commercial Drive.

The Planning Commission asked Land Design North to give them an example of what the landscaping design along the Parks Highway could look like using this gateway concept. The attached three drawings for the Parks/Tommy Moe Drive intersection illustrate the gateway concept being recommended by the Planning Commission.

In addition to adopting the gateway concept, the Planning Commission recommends selecting a central coordinating theme for these landscaping focal points. The three themes being forwarded by the Commission are "Gateway to Adventure", "Gateway to the Future", or "Gateway to the Last Frontier". By having a unifying theme each gateway (focal point) would become part of Wasilla's visual message. Each theme gives us a variety of opportunities - for example, if the theme was Gateway to Adventure, one gateway could focus on the Iditarod/mushing, one on the Iron Dog/snow machines, one on Skiing/snowboarding, one on fishing/boating, etc. If the theme selected is Gateway to the Last Frontier, one gateway could focus on the mushing/snowshoeing, one on the gold prospectors, etc.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Accept the Planning Commission recommendation on the gateway concept for future landscaping along Wasilla Highways and select a unifying theme for highway landscaping.

Motion Option 1: *Accept the Planning Commission's recommendation on creating landscape gateways, or focal points, and to select "Gateway to Adventure" as the theme to be used by DOT in design of landscaping for highway projects in Wasilla.*

**OR**

Motion Option 2: *Accept the Planning Commission's recommendation on creating landscape gateways, or focal points, and to select "Gateway to the Future" as the theme to be used by DOT in design of landscaping for highway projects in Wasilla.*

**OR**

Motion Option 3: *Accept the Planning Commission's recommendation on creating landscape gateways, or focal points, and to select "Gateway to the Last Frontier" as the theme to be used by DOT in design of landscaping for highway projects in Wasilla.*





