

SUBJECT: Council Resolution 00-29; Opposing Knik Street Overpass

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: June 6, 2000

FOR AGENDA OF: June 12, 2000

SUMMARY

Major changes will occur within Wasilla due to DOT construction in the next few years. Council Resolution 00-29 is to document the City's opposition for a particular aspect of the Parks Highway upgrade plans.

BACKGROUND

Based on a 1993 report for the Knik-Goose Bay Road/Main Street/Wasilla Fishhook proposed project, DOT is proposing constructing an overpass at Knik Street in downtown Wasilla within the next few years. The prior city administration supported the project, and a previous Council passed a resolution supporting this project and other DOT proposed projects.

However, significant changes have occurred in Wasilla since 1993. For example, DOT will be constructing the Palmer-Wasilla Highway Extension next year. This project should eliminate many of the traffic problems that the Knik Street overpass was addressing.

Administration is concerned about the negative impacts of the overpass. Many of the properties south of the highway would be greatly impacted by the new traffic pattern through the now-quiet neighborhood (Kennedy Addition). City Hall will be greatly impacted by the overpass on Knik Street. Aesthetics of such an overpass in the heart of Wasilla are not consistent with the City's efforts at improving quality of life for our residents. Therefore, administration opposes this overpass project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The administration is requesting that the Council approve Resolution 00-29 opposing the Knik Street overpass. I recommend that the Council approve the resolution.


Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor