

1 By: Bryce J. Ward
2 Leah Berman Williams
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4 Introduced: 10/28/2021
5 Adopted: 10/28/2021
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7 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

8
9 RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 37

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11 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAIL CONNECTING BIRCH
12 HILL RECREATION AREA TO THE CREAMERS FIELD TRAILS SYSTEM TO INCLUDE A
13 STEESE EXPRESSWAY TRAIL UNDERPASS
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15 WHEREAS, Fairbanks North Star Borough residents enjoy using trails for
16 different recreational activities, including motorized and non-motorized use; and
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18 WHEREAS, Residents have expressed interest in the creation of a
19 comprehensively developed trail system and wildlife area located between Farmer’s Loop
20 Road, College Road and the Steese Highway; and
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22 WHEREAS, A well-developed and comprehensively managed trail system
23 and wildlife area will provide benefits to residents of the borough by enhancing quality of
24 life and opportunities for outdoor recreation; and
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26 WHEREAS, Community trails are proven to improve the health and
27 wellbeing of a community as well as provide direct, indirect and induced economic
28 benefit; and
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30 WHEREAS, The Borough supports efforts to solicit and secure funding for
31 project land acquisition, planning, development and construction with organizations such
32 as, but not limited to; the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, other Federal
33 Land Managers, the Alaska Congressional Delegation and other local user groups; and
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35 WHEREAS, The Borough Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan is currently
36 being updated to include new connector trails and re-prioritization of trails projects; and
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38 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that the Steese trail connector may be a
39 component of the new trails plan as well as other connecting trail systems; and
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41 WHEREAS, Planning and development of this trail system would be done in
42 accordance with the Borough Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and the Plan Update;
43 and

44 WHEREAS, It is important to have safe means to connect the trails between
45 the west side of the Steese Expressway and the east side, of which a trail underpass
46 installed during the construction of road improvements to this area would be the most
47 efficient use of resources; and

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49 WHEREAS, DOT is planning to conduct a feasibility study of the
50 Steese/Johansen Interchange project to determine if a recreational underpass can be
51 constructed and whether there is community support for it; and

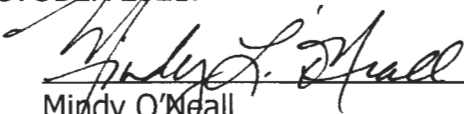
52
53 WHEREAS, Connecting community recreation areas through local trails
54 provides a network of resources for residents and visitor to enjoy.


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56 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
57 North Star Borough supports consideration in the update to the Comprehensive
58 Recreational Trail Plan of the development and construction of a connector trail between
59 the Birch Hill Recreation Area and the Creamers Field trail system with a recreational
60 underpass and encourages collaboration between government agencies to determine the
61 appropriate location of the trail improvements.

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63 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
64 shall be sent to the State of Alaska Northern Region DOT Director, State of Alaska
65 Department of Natural Resources Northern Area Office superintendent, US Army Fort
66 Wainwright Garrison Commander, Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Director, the
67 Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Director of FAST Planning and the local US Fish and
68 Wildlife Service office.

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70 ADOPTED THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.



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73 _____
74 Mindy O'Neal
75 Presiding Officer

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77 ATTEST:
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80 _____
81 April Trickey, CMC
82 Borough Clerk

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85 Yeses: Sanford, Tomaszewski, Wilson, Cash, Lyke, Williams, Cooper, Lojewski, O'Neal
86 Noes: None