

RESOLUTION #2023-15

A resolution supporting statutory change to allow for the implementation of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).

WHEREAS, a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) is an organization that identifies local transportation needs, conducts planning, assists local governments, and supports the statewide transportation planning process in nonmetropolitan regions of a State; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs benefit rural regions (those without a Metropolitan Planning Organization, which only exist in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and soon the Mat Su Borough) by instilling a systematic transportation planning process, involving local officials in decision making, and providing a means to establish regionally unique priorities; and

WHEREAS, at States' discretion, federal funding may be used to support RTPOs, and State and local contributions ensure that sufficient resources empower effective planning; and

WHEREAS, the existence of an RTPO makes prioritized projects more competitive under many federal funding programs; and

WHEREAS, federal surface transportation law defines RTPOs very specifically and RTPOs must be designated by their state's governor to be considered an RTPO under the federal definition; and

WHEREAS, legislation for a statutory change may be required for the implementation of RTPOs in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports statutory changes to allow the implementation of RTPOs, and encourages appropriate levels of funding provided by the State to ensure necessary levels of staffing and planning resources.