

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

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**RESOLUTION 19-082**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
URGING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &  
PUBLIC FACILITIES TO KEEP THE SILVERTIP MAINTENANCE  
STATION OPEN.

WHEREAS, On September 4, 2019, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) issued a press release announcing its decision to close the Silvertip Maintenance Station located near the junction of the Seward and Hope Highways, and to have the Crown Point and Girdwood maintenance stations provide services to the Silvertip region originally from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. but extended those hours on October 24, 2019 from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, The Silvertip Station is in the midst of the Kenai Mountains, enabling DOT&PF to provide prompt road maintenance services in the heart of this elevated area of steep slopes and frequent curves along the Seward Highway through Turnagain Pass; and

WHEREAS, The Seward Highway is the sole roadway connection to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, home to approximately 58,522 people, and is relied on daily for travel for many purposes including access to medical services, the delivery of mail, goods and services, other business travel, and many other important purposes; and

WHEREAS, According to DOT&PF five positions were cut as a result of less than expected revenue from the Motor Fuel Tax which supports DOT&PF's maintenance workers and stations; and

WHEREAS, The Silvertip Station is about 25 road miles from the Girdwood Station and about 32.5 miles from the Crown Point Station, which leaves a large additional expanse to be covered by these stations, and is expected to result in substantially delayed and reduced road maintenance services in the area previously covered by the Silvertip Station; and

WHEREAS, This is also expected to result in increased road closures, depending upon weather and road conditions, on this important arterial highway; and

WHEREAS, The traffic between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. normally consists of heavy semi-trucking including doubles and carrying heavier than normal loads in order to travel at a time when most of the public is not on the road; and

WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough has established the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area which coordinates the provision of volunteer emergency

services along the Seward Highway and eastern portions of the Sterling Highway which under current conditions requires volunteers to put in long hours to respond to accidents and deliver injured people to medical services when needed; and

WHEREAS, This severe reduction in road maintenance will also detrimentally impact road safety by delaying the ability of emergency personnel to respond to vehicle accidents occurring within the Seward Highway corridor and then deliver injured people to the health care services they may require; and

WHEREAS, The lack of maintenance during these hours will likely increase the volume of heavier commercial vehicles travelling at the same times most smaller vehicles travel, further increasing safety risks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, strongly urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to keep the Silvertip Maintenance Station open during the upcoming winter months with personnel needed to properly maintain that section of the highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Michael R. Dunleavy, John McKinnon, Commissioner DOT&PF; Wolfgang Junge, Director, Central Region, DOT&PF; Mike Lesmann, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF; Senator Peter Micciche; Senator Gary Stevens, Representative Ben Carpenter, Representative Sarah Vance; Representative Gary Knopp; Kenai Peninsula Borough; City of Seward; City of Kenai; City of Soldotna; and the Municipality of Anchorage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 25th day of November, 2019.

CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A