



# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 20, 2023

**TO:** Chair Bryson and Public Works and Facilities Committee

**FROM:** Katie Koester, Engineering & Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Resolution 3019 in Support of a RAISE Grant for JDNC

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DOWL Engineering has been invited to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> PWFC meeting to provide an update on the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study currently underway. The purpose of the PEL is to facilitate robust public engagement early and often in the project and explore different alternatives. The next step after completion of the PEL will be to work on environmental permitting through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. CBJ is grateful to Senator Murkowski for securing a \$7 million dollar appropriation to begin this process. CBJ is applying for a Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to complete NEPA and initiate design. Without having landed on a preferred alternative, it is difficult to estimate at this stage how much NEPA will cost. However, a project of this scope, size and complexity will require significant analysis, public outreach, and mitigation strategies. We anticipate having a cost estimate for NEPA next week which will inform the budget and I will update PWFC with that information. The ceiling for a RAISE grant is \$25M and any budget for the next phase of the project would be below that. While not required, a local match will strengthen our application and the grant writer has recommend a commitment of 5% total project cost.

In order to develop a robust grant application, CBJ is working with ADOT and stakeholders to gather letters of support. Part of demonstrating community support for the project is passage of the draft resolution attached.

The committee will be briefed on the extensive public, stakeholder and technical engagement on the PEL at the meeting. However, I have discussed with Chair Bryson the need to provide an opportunity for those groups and individuals to weigh in with the Assembly and suggested a special PWFC work session dedicated to JDNC that is well advertised and accepts public testimony in the near future. If the committee is amendable to this, I will work with the Clerks ADOT and DOWL on timing.

**Requested Action:**

Move to forward Resolution 3019 supporting a RAISE grant application for Juneau Douglas North Crossing to the Assembly for approval.

Move to request a special PWFC work session be scheduled in the near future on Juneau Douglas North Crossing.

**ENC:**

Draft Resolution 3019

JDNC Fact Sheet

Map of Preferred Alternatives