Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 01/30/2023
Drafted by: B. Brown

<u>DRAFT-</u> RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3019

A Resolution in Support of a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing.

WHEREAS, THE PURPOSE OF THE JUNEAU DOUGLAS NORTH CROSSING IS TO IMPROVE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DOUGLAS ISLAND AND THE REST OF JUNEAU, CREATE AN ALTERNATE EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE, ENHANCE TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-MOTORIZED USERS, AND REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED ENERGY CONSUMPTION; AND,

WHEREAS, THE CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU SEEKS TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ITS OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE OF ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY; AND,

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION HAS INSTITUTED THE REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROGRAM TO INVEST IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT LOCAL OR REGIONAL IMPACT; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANT FUNDING WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN TWO EQUAL PORTIONS WITH HALF TO GO TO PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS LIKE THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU; AND,

WHEREAS, UNDER 23 U.S.C., ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO RECEIVE RAISE GRANT FUNDS INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS THE CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU AND ELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE HIGHWAY, BRIDGE, AND ROAD PROJECTS; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANTS TO RURAL AREAS WILL HAVE A MINIMUM AWARD AMOUNT OF $1,000,000 AND A MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT OF $25,000,000; AND,

WHEREAS, THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU HAS BEEN PURSUING AND ENDEAVORING TO BUILD A JUNEAU DOUGLAS NORTH CROSSING FOR DECADES, AS IT IS AN ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY, ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY; AND,

WHEREAS, THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU ASSEMBLY IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE JUNEAU-DOUGLAS BRIDGE DOES NOT REMAIN THE ONLY CONDUIT BETWEEN THE NORTH AMERICAN MAINLAND AND DOUGLAS ISLAND, AND IS ALSO COMMITTED TO THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS INCLUDING LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING THAT WILL BE CREATED BY THE JUNEAU DOUGLAS NORTH CROSSING; AND,

WHEREAS, THE REQUEST FOR RAISE GRANT FUNDING WILL BUILD ON THE LAST 12 MONTHS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS ON THE PROJECT THROUGH A PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY; AND,

WHEREAS, THROUGH THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES PROCESS THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU AND ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES HAS ENGAGED WITH MANY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, INCLUDING LOCAL TRIBES AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR MOST PROJECTS IN AN AMOUNT UP TO 80% FEDERAL MATCH WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT COST TO BE COVERED BY LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANT FUNDING MAY BE USED FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS, AS WELL AS RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, AND THE JUNEAU DOUGLAS NORTH CROSSING PROJECT WILL HELP PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS, AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF DOUGLAS ISLAND, THE MENDENHALL VALLEY, AND ALL OF JUNEAU; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANTS MAY FUND UP TO 100% OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS WHICH ARE LOCATED IN HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES, WHICH INCLUDES COMMUNITIES ENCOMPASSING ANY TRIBAL LANDS; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANT FUNDING WILL ALLOW FOR COMPLETION OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PERMITTING FOR THIS PROJECT AND INITIATE DESIGN; AND,

WHEREAS, RAISE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE NEPA PROCESS WILL ALLOW FOR COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND PLANNING OF THE JUNEAU DOUGLAS NORTH CROSSING PROJECT SO AS TO MAXIMIZE AREAWIDE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND MITIGATE IMPACTS TO FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau strongly supports RAISE Grant Funding for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing and will continue to allocate and invest funds for this worthwhile project in order to make it a reality as soon as possible.

Section 2. The City and Borough of Juneau acknowledges that although the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Project may not require a local match, because of the tremendous importance of this project, in accordance with Alaska law on encumbering funds in future fiscal years, intends to commit to providing matching funds of at least 5% of the

overall project budget as a local match in the event of successful completion of the RAISE Grant Funding process.

Section 3. A successful application for and subsequent receipt of RAISE Grant funds is an essential component of the budgetary planning and execution process for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing.

Section 4. The City and Borough of Juneau respectfully requests the United States Department of Transportation's Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation to favorably consider the RAISE Grant application for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Project, and to approve the application and grant the funds necessary to move the project forward as expeditiously and effectively as possible.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2023.

_____
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk