

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

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3019(b)

**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 and 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 federal law, eligible entities to receive RAISE Grant funds include local governments such as the City and Borough of Juneau and eligible projects include highway, bridge, and road projects; and

WHEREAS, RAISE Grants to rural areas will have no minimum for planning projects 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 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 the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities have engaged with many stakeholder groups, including local Tribes and Alaska Native corporations; 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 in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, RAISE Grant funding will allow for completion of the 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 and 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.

91 **Section 4.** The City and Borough of Juneau requests the United States Department
92 of Transportation's Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation to favorably consider the
93 RAISE Grant application for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing project, and to approve the
94 application and grant the funds necessary to move the project forward as expeditiously and
95 effectively as possible.
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97 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its
98 adoption.
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100 Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2023.
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104 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

105 Attest:
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109 Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk
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