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ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS THE INCLUSION OF THE KNIK ARM CROSSING PROJECT IN LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

(Anchorage, AK) Last night, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly by a vote of 8-2 approved the inclusion of the Knik Arm Crossing project into the amended Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

“Approval by the Assembly is a critical step in furthering the planning process for the Knik Arm Crossing,” said Henry Springer, Executive Director for the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority. Springer also added, “The Assembly should be commended for evaluating this project on its merits rather than yielding to a small vocal minority that is not representative of public opinion and in particular Anchorage residents.”

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate a Knik Arm Crossing. The Record of Decision is the final step in the approval process prior to project implementation.

There are several steps that have been part of the process to date and in order to move forward with the project through the NEPA process, it is important that the AMATS policy committee:

- 1) Amend the Anchorage LRTP (2005) to include the Knik Arm Crossing (KAC) project;**
- 2) Initiate and complete a regional Air Quality Conformity determination on the project in accord with the Clean Air Act; and**
- 3) Support designation of the project alignment as part of the National Highway System in the plan and update the Official Streets and Highways plan to reflect such designation.**

The proposed project is an opportunity for the public and private sector to partner in a major component of Alaska’s transportation infrastructure, and will provide a new connection between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and improved regional transportation infrastructure to help meet existing and projected population and economic growth, according to the RFQ. Additional information about KABATA and the Knik Arm Crossing Project can be found on KABATA’s website at www.knikarmbridge.com.

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